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ARAB TIMES

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H'armless

Six people were injured when a building collapsed behind the Catholic Church in Kuwait's busy shopping arcade. Rescuers and firemen arrived within minutes of the accident. Dozens of people, who saw smoke billowing from a distance, gathered at the site of the accident to assist rescuers. This could have been true. The "disaster show" was part of a mock exercise conducted by Kuwait's Civil Defence trainees.

So real was the "rescue operation" that most onlookers thought the building had collapsed. It was actually demolished and set on fire for the mock exercise.



carried out by more than 60 Civil Defence volunteers who are being trained to cope with emergencies. This is part of a programme to train civilians. Both the "injured" and the "rescuers" were trainees and some imaginative make-up artists had come up with gruesome injuries (pictures).

At the end of the "mock show," the "injured" sat up smiling on stretchers in the ambulances and puffed smoke as the firemen wrapped up the operation. The show was over. (Photos by Mohammed Bedaq)

Baku port blockade blasted

'Gorby will not watch USSR break up'

MOSCOW, Jan 24, (Agencies): The Red Army, ignoring an Azerbaijani secession ultimatum, took control of the volatile border with Iran today, while spokesman Gennady Gerasimov vowed Mikhail Gorbachev will not watch the Soviet Union disintegrate.

Azerbaijan's Parliament had threatened to consider secession if the Red Army did not pull out by Wednesday at 6 a.m. and Gerasimov was asked if the Kremlin would consider allowing Azerbaijan and Lithuania break away.

But he said, "if you ask the question, who benefits from this trouble, then certainly conservative forces do benefit, because it's an additional argument for them against perestroika."

Gerasimov rejected suggestions that the mounting problems in the Soviet Union's restless outlying republics threatened Gorbachev.

"There is no alternative to it (the leadership). There are no alternative leaders. There are no alternative policies," he told correspondents after a routine news briefing.

Soviet army tanks, artillery and warships fired on merchant ships blocking the harbour of the Azerbaijani capital Baku today, a prominent local author Yusuf Samad Ogly said.

Although the Azerbaijani capital of 1.8 million, was still not pacified, Soviet forces slicing south completely sealed the 500 mile (800-km) border with Iran.

The frontier was breached by Azerbaijan over New Year and they had used it as a gateway to bring across heavy weapons including armoured personnel carriers, one well-connected source in Moscow said.

"The situation on the Soviet-Iran border is completely under control," Gerasimov said, "322 people crossed this border from (Continued on Page 2)

"Who is going to preside over the dissolution of the Soviet Union? Not Gorbachev," he said.

He conceded the Soviet President may have been hurt politically by ordering in the Red Army on Saturday to halt the fratricidal killing between Muslim Azerbaijanis and Christian Armenians but said no one else could now rule.

"There is no real threat to (our leadership)," Gerasimov said. "Why should there be. Because there is no alternative leader and no alternative policy."

Police strike

Kashmir in turmoil

SRINAGAR, Jan 24, (AP): Hundreds of Kashmir police went on strike for five hours today to protest the presence of federal troops trying to halt Muslim rebel violence.

The government appealed to the rebels to lay down their weapons on the fourth day of a crackdown against the violent pro-Pakistan secessionist movement in Kashmir.

At least 57 people, most of them protesters, have been killed since a 24-hour curfew was imposed on Saturday in Srinagar and adjoining towns.

"I specially appeal to all those who have misguidedly come to possess illegal arms to surrender them immediately, so that the need for making any (police) search does not arise," Kashmir Gov. Jagmohan told a news conference in Srinagar, a predominantly Muslim tourist resort.

Jagmohan was appointed governor of Jammu-Kashmir state by Prime Minister V.P. Singh two weeks ago in an effort to curb the rebellion, the most serious problem faced by Singh since he took office Dec 2.

The Islamic militants, led by the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front, demand either independence for mostly Muslim Kashmir or union with neighbouring Pakistan, which is Islamic. The Jammu region south of Kashmir is mainly Hindu.

Singh, a Hindu like Jagmohan, has sent hundreds of troops from the mostly Hindu army and paramilitary forces to Kashmir.

Tensions increased yesterday when soldiers shot to death a member of the predominantly Muslim state constabulary while enforcing the curfew in Srinagar. Government officials called the killing an accident.

Hundreds of members of the state's 40,000-strong police force refused to work today. A crowd of 300 striking policemen was seen at a downtown street, waving rifles and shouting, "death to the Indian army" and "Indians go back."

The striking policemen stopped police vehicles in the streets and urged colleagues to join the protest.

Muslim residents of Srinagar were seen embracing striking policemen when the curfew was relaxed for an hour in the morning.

The strike was called off five hours later after Jitendra Narain Saxena, the state's top police officer, and Mohammad Noman, Srinagar's police inspector general, spoke to the protesting policemen.

Saxena later said, "It appears that over the years, some terrorist elements have infiltrated the state police force."

Jagmohan said the "policemen were resentful of certain things."

Top Sikh leader shot dead

CHANDIGARH, India, Jan 24, (UPI): Gunmen of a rival group today shot and killed a senior leader of the main faction of the militant Sikh student organisation that has been a driving force behind the Sikh separatist movement in northern Punjab state, police said.

Harinder Singh Sandhu, secretary-general of the All-India Sikh Student Federation, was attacked in his home in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar, 110 miles (175 kms) to the northwest, said police in the state capital of Chandigarh.

Four young Sikhs arrived at the house on motorbikes about 7:20 a.m., knocked on the door and asked to speak with Sandhu, police said. Two of the men were taken to see him and while talking, pulled out revolvers and fired at close range.

Sandhu was shot in the head, face and chest, police said. The attackers fled and their victim died en route to the hospital.

Sandhu was one of the two leaders of the most prominent faction of the students' federation and police said his assassination was working on behalf of a rival group within the organisation.

He was killed only nine days after the slaying in the Punjab town of Bhatinda of another prominent member of his faction, Sukhwant Singh Akkhuwari, who police also believes was slain by rivals.

Sandhu, who was preparing to leave for Bhatinda to attend a commemorative service for Akkhuwari when he was shot, charged that Akkhuwari was killed by members of one of a number of vigilante squads sanctioned by former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government.

Meanwhile, the government yesterday set up three special courts to try criminal cases arising from the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

Government starts talks on democracy

Bid to work out a formula for expanding shura base

KUWAIT, Jan 24, (Agencies): HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah has met a number of prominent Kuwaiti citizens, after HH the Amir told the nation in a radio and television address last week that he supported expanding democracy in the country.

The Amir called for dialogue, stability and national unity instead of confrontation.

Two Kuwaiti dailies indicated that Sheikh Saad queried the people he consulted on the means of fulfilling the objectives spelled out in the

Amir's speech.

"The dialogue has started in the implementation of the Amir's promise to hear all options through various communication channels with a view to working out a formula for expanding the shura (consultation) base and the people's involvement," one of the dailies said.

A Kuwaiti citizen, Munazal Al Onaizi, told the paper: "We stressed the need for reaching a unified opinion on shura and parliamentary life whereby stability of our state will be secured."

In an interview published today in the Saudi Arabian newspaper Al

Nadwa, Kuwait's Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Sabah said the Amir wanted to expand public participation in the government, but to completely avoid the type of confrontation that led to Parliament's closure twice before.

The minister also stressed that "all sons of Kuwait" had a right to their opinion but that they had no right to violate the law, especially after the Amir called for open dialogue.

Sheikh Jaber Mubarak expressed "regret" over the reaction of several former parliamentarians to the call by the Amir to adhere to wisdom and dialogue.

The minister told Al Nadwa: "We are really displeased with holding another gathering last Monday by activists calling for the return of the dissolved Parliament."

The gathering in Farwaniya area resulted in confrontation with the police which arrested five people including one caught while brandishing a knife, the Ministry of Interior stated on Monday night.

The gathering came two days after the Amir in an address to the nation called for a dialogue with former parliamentarians on the possible return of 1986 disbanded Parliament.

"It is not accepted logically nor mentally that gathering again be the response to the call of His Highness to resort to wisdom and dialogue," Sheikh Jaber told the paper.

"It is really regrettable that those brothers had called for such gatherings after they all listened to the Amir's historic speech for an open dialogue," he said the minister.

He said the Amir spoke about an expanded foundation for shura, parliamentary life and participation of people but after removing factors that contributed to dissolution of the Parliament.

He asserted that democratic life in Kuwait existed long before the establishment of the Parliament as it was a way of life.

Militants rampage in Egypt

ASSIUT, Egypt, Jan 24, (AP): Scores of Muslim militants went on a stone-throwing, window-smashing rampage to protest the killing of a colleague by police two days earlier, security officials said today.

And, for the second time in three days, they said extremists attacked and injured a village grocer and his family because male and female family members worked together in the store.

On Monday, security police clashed with around 300 Muslim militants demonstrating outside a mosque. A demonstrator was killed and another seriously injured by bullets allegedly fired by policemen.

"The blood of the martyr will not be wasted," the protesters chanted today as they took revenge by throwing stones through nine shop windows in central Assiut.

Most of the protesters dispersed when shop owners opened fire. Police arrived and arrested nine people, said Attorney-General Abdel Mokhtar, but they were released later.



Diana dons hijab

Princess Diane donned a Muslim head scarf known as a hijab before touring an Islamic community centre on Wednesday.

Islamic law requires all women past puberty to cover their heads in the presence of men who are not close relatives.

The princess arrived at the Husaini Shie Islamic Centre in west London dressed in a red and black suit and matching red pillbox hat. She was told the hat would do as head covering when she visited the centre's men's section, but she asked to borrow a headscarf instead.

She chose a tasselled black silk scarf owned by Farida Fazel who said: "The princess asked me what the scarf was called and said she would like to wear one. The lady-in-waiting offered to get a white scarf but the princess said she wanted a black one. I gave her a scarf I had and told her she could keep it."

61 years to life jail: Convicted killer Richard Angelo, a nurse who tried to become a hero by reviving patients he first injected with lethal doses of drugs, today was sentenced to 61 and a third years in life in prison.

During many years on the bench, I've heard many stories of horror, but this is at the top of the list," said Suffolk county court judge Alfred Tisch.

The judge pointed out, however, that under state law the maximum time Angelo could serve is 50 years to life.

The course of conduct taken by this defendant gives new meaning to the concept of depraved indifference," Tisch said as Angelo, 27, stood before him without expression, occasionally biting his lip. (UPI)

Enrile charged with corruption

Tax diversion case filed

MANILA, Jan 24, (AP): The government recommended corruption charges today against Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and three others for allegedly diverting taxes paid by coconut farmers to a cultural project sponsored by former first lady Imelda Marcos.

Solicitor-General Francisco Chavez said preliminary charges were filed in connection with a 10 million-peso (\$445,000) donation by the Philippine Coconut Authority in 1976 to fund the Cultural Centre of the Philippines, a pet project of Mrs Marcos.

The government also has recommended indicting Enrile for rebellion in connection with last month's coup attempt. A

panel of state prosecutors is considering whether to indict him on the charge.

Enrile has denied involvement in the coup attempt and claims the moves are part of a harassment campaign against the opposition.

Enrile was fired as defence minister in November 1986 after a failed coup by his followers. He was elected in 1987 to the 23-member Senate, where he is the only opposition figure.

ARAB TIMES

Grand Bingo

Mr. C.M. Mathew has won the Four Corners prize. He will receive KD 25. Game No. 75 continues for Top Line and three Full House prizes.

Pakistan mob kills 7 cops

LAHORE, Pakistan, Jan 24, (Reuters): A mob infuriated by the killing of a young man by robbers attacked a jeep full of policemen yesterday and beat seven of them to death.

Police said two civilians also died when they opened fire on crowds stoning them in the Punjab town Chinot.

Weather

FAIR weather with light to moderate northwesterly wind.

State of sea: Slight to moderate

High water: 1.00 pm, 10.00 pm

Low water: 6.00 am, 5.00 pm

Sunrise: 5.41 am

Sunset: 5.20 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 20°C 68°F

Ahmad: 18°C 64°F

Falaka: 17°C 63°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 4°C 39°F

Ahmad: 3°C 37°F

Falaka: 2°C 36°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 16°C 61°F

Ahmad: 15°C 59°F

Falaka: 14°C 57°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 33 per cent

Ahmad: 62 per cent

Falaka: 40 per cent

Pope tours Central Africa

VATICAN CITY, Jan 24, (Reuters): Pope John Paul tomorrow begins an eight-day tour of Western and Central Africa, a region scarred by grinding poverty, coups and civil wars.

The trip, the Pope's 45th outside Italy and his sixth to Africa, will take him from the western extreme of the continent in the Cape Verde Islands through Guinea Bissau, Mali, Burkina Faso and Chad, which has been ravaged by a 20-year civil war.

It will not be an easy journey for the 69-year-old Pontiff, who has set himself a typically gruelling schedule through the hot, inhospitable Sahel region south of the Sahara desert, with at least one flight every day of the tour.

But the journey will not only be demanding physically.



A market vendor tries to hide behind Pope John Paul's postcards at Cape Verde market as she spots a photographer aiming at her.

Thames Valley police issued a statement saying:

Robbery at ex-UAE ambassador's home in Britain

BURNHAM, England, Jan 24, (AP): A gang armed with explosives stole gold, jewellery and art works from the mansion of billionaire Mahid Al Tajir, police said today.

The gang, reportedly four men, tied up the caretaker and his wife, then blew open a strong room and a safe at Dropmore House near Burnham, about 20 miles (32 kms) w of London.

Al Tajir, former ambassador to Britain for the United Arab Emirates, was not at the home. He is not believed to have lived there for at least a year, according to Press Association, Britain's domestic news agency.

"A considerable sum has been stolen. A representative of the owner is currently assessing the items taken. The gang is obviously dangerous. Members of the public are advised not to approach them."

Caretaker William Woodworth said he was confronted by the gang Tuesday evening as he returned from a pub. The caretaker said he was forced to turn off the alarm system before he and his wife Alice were gagged and handcuffed to a table.

Woodworth said he freed himself Wednesday morning and alerted police.

Police said they believed the robbers were after a valuable silver collection usually kept at the mansion, but it was in London for an exhibition.

Al Tajir, once a customs clerk in Dubai, made a fortune in oil trading. He owns three mansions in London, Mereworth Castle in Kent, southeast of London, and Keir Castle in Scotland.

In 1986, Al Tajir reportedly paid \$2 million (about \$3.2 million) to ransom his brother, Sadiq Al Tajir, from kidnappers.

Al Tajir was an unconventional diplomat. In 1979 he was officially rebuffed for failing to occupy his reserved seat at the state opening of the British Parliament.

Al Tajir violated etiquette again in 1982 when he failed to pay a farewell visit to Queen Elizabeth II when left his post.

Mandela release discussed Crucial meeting

CAPE TOWN, Jan 24, (AP): The cabinet met today for the first time this year, with no agenda that included the release of jailed black leader Nelson Mandela and the possible legislation of the African National Congress.

Decisions reached at the meeting "will change the face of South Africa permanently," said the Sowetan, the country's largest black-oriented daily newspaper.

The cabinet traditionally does not announce its decisions immediately after its meetings, and the outcome of today's session might not be known until President F.W. de Klerk gives a speech Feb 2 at the opening of parliament.

Mandela, the country's most popular black leader, has been jailed since 1962 and is serving a life sentence for helping plan the start of the ANC's anti-government sabotage campaign. The government has confirmed that he will be freed, and there is strong speculation the release could occur by mid-February. His release is one of several pre-conditions that the ANC, which currently is a banned organisation in South Africa, says must be met before it enters negotiations on a new political system extending voting rights to blacks. The outlawed movement also demands that it be legalised, that the state of emergency imposed in 1986 be lifted, and that the government halt trials and executions of political opponents.

Government officials have indicated that these conditions could be met, at least to a large extent, leaving the ANC with a decision as to whether it should join negotiations.

Internal stresses fan Indo-Pak rivalry

NEW DELHI, Jan 24, (Reuters): Political and military pressures in both India and Pakistan are stoking confrontation over Kashmir 25 years after the countries fought their last war for the strategic territory, analysts said today.

The confrontation has so far been limited to an exchange of harsh words by diplomats and military skirmishes across the UN-monitored ceasefire line that divides Kashmir.

But Indian troops sent in to crush a militant Muslim movement in the Kashmir Valley, which Delhi says is backed by Pakistan, has dramatically heightened tensions.

"Both countries unfortunately have governments which

are weak in parliamentary strength. They are, therefore, succumbing to military and political pressures on Kashmir in their need to look tough," said political analyst Ashis Nandi.

Jammu and Kashmir, a Muslim-majority state ruled by a Hindu king in colonial times, is a sensitive issue for both Pakistan and India.

But Nandi, at Delhi's Independent Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, saw little danger of a major conflict.

"Both countries know the cost of a war and the fact that developments in Eastern Europe will increasingly draw Western assistance to that region from the Third World,"

Nandi said.

Both countries receive substantial aid from the West. India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir since gaining independence from Britain in 1947.

"We cannot rule out a military confrontation," said one Western diplomat. "But there are a set of pre-conditions before such an eventuality."

He said one would be a major military operation against the militants, whose campaign for Kashmir's independence or merger with Pakistan has resulted in the deaths of 50 people in the state's summer capital of Srinagar in recent

days.

Senior Indian defence sources said the current crackdown against militants was not the full-scale military operation that may come soon to secure the border and ceasefire line.

That kind of operation would need reinforcements for the estimated 100,000 troops based in Jammu and Kashmir, one defence source said.

India and Pakistan already have sizeable forces ranged along the 1,400 km (870 mile) ceasefire line snaking through the heavily forested mountain terrain. India controls two-thirds of Kashmir and Pakistan the rest.

Baku port blockade blasted

(Continued from Page 1)

Azerbaijan and Iran completely legally, and 1,600 crossed the border in the opposite direction.

The Soviet Union's First Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh met Iran's ambassador today to discuss unrest linked to Azerbaijani nationalism on the Soviet-Iranian border.

Samed-Ogly, a poet and member of the Nationalist Popular Front, said he saw several vessels sunk during the 40-minute bombardment.

The population of the city on the banks of the Caspian Sea defied military orders to return to work four days after Soviet troops entered the city to crush nationalist unrest.

Exchanges of fire were heard in city districts as the official death toll in clashes between army and civilians rose to 99.

Samed-Ogly said it took the army no longer than 10 to 15 minutes to get artillery and tanks into place against the blockade organised by seamen who feared Soviet forces were transporting the bodies of the past week's dead out of Baku.

They started firing from artillery guns, grenade launchers and heavy machine guns from the embankment and also from naval ships sealed in the harbour," he told Reuters by telephone from his home in the city.

"The fire lasted about 40 minutes. I saw that some of the civilian ships were hit because there were flashes from them. I think some were sunk and others retreated into the open sea."

No one could approach the area, he said, because Lenin Square opposite the bay remained sealed off by troops.

"Before the attack merchant ships were issuing long whistles every hour, now there is silence from there," he said. "It was real combat."

Soviet authorities intensified efforts today to put down a nationalist uprising in Azerbaijan, detaining 43 suspected activists, seizing copying machines and banning demonstrations and strikes, media reported.

The Soviet news agency Tass, quoting a communiqué from Baku's military commander, Lieutenant General Anatoly Dubynin, said 43 people had been arrested overnight in raids on "illegally functioning organisations."

Another 57 were held for breaking the curfew in Baku and 53 were "detained administratively," Tass said without explanation.

Dubynin did not name the illegal organisations but a member of the Nationalist Popular Front said those arrested belonged to its affiliate, the Council of National Defence, and the Front itself.

Mamed Ali-Zade, one of the national defence committee's directors, was arrested at his home about midnight, his wife said today.

An editor with the official Azerbaijan news agency said only members of the more extreme Council of National Defence had been arrested.

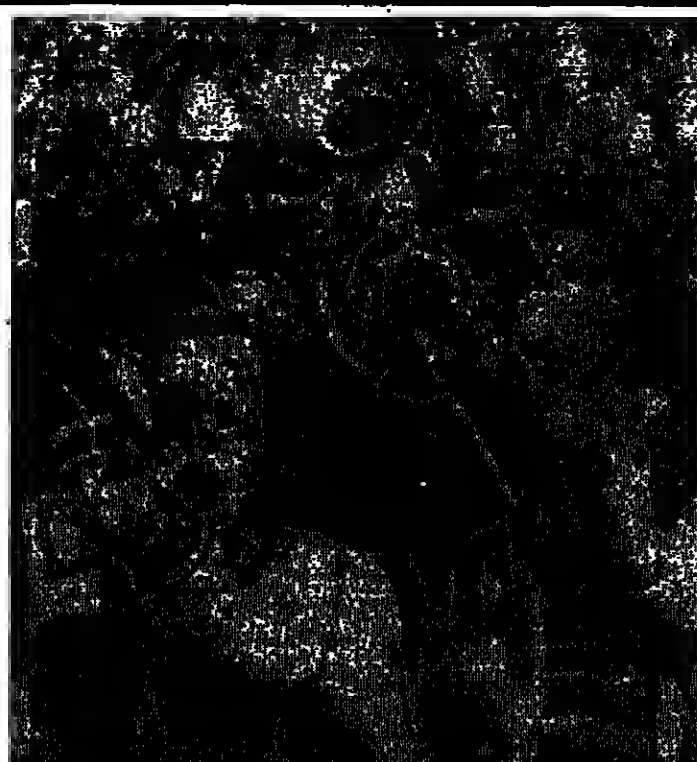
The council was abolished by a military decree published last evening which also banned strikes and rallies in the republic, an apparent response to the mass funeral on Monday of Azeri killed when the troops smashed through nationalist roadblocks which brought one million people onto the streets.

Iran said today Soviet Azeris were building a bridge across the Araks border river.

The Iranian news agency Irna said Soviet Azeris began laying the foundation for a bridge yesterday, defying a state of siege declared by Moscow in Nakhichevan region.

US President George Bush said today Gorbachev faced an internal problem of "enormous dimensions."

"I hope that he not only survives but stays strong because I think it is in our interest that perestroika succeeds," Bush said in reference to Gorbachev's reform programme.



Colourful parade

Bandsmen of India's exotic Camel Regiment take a break from patrolling the borders to rehearse in New Delhi for a colourful parade to mark the country's 41st Republic Day on Jan 26. The band claims to be the first mounted on camels in the world. (Reuters wirephoto)



Fight over protocols: Thirty people were injured, five in gunfire, when rival members of Bangladesh's largest opposition party fought over who would be the first to greet their visiting party leader. Police and witnesses said the fighting started when Sheikh Hasina, Awami League chief, arrived at Chittagong airport yesterday from Dhaka to speak at a party rally.

Airport officials said they saw members of two groups led by rival local leaders shoot revolvers and throw home-made bombs. (Reuters)

Zambian envoy dies of Aids: Zambia's top diplomat in India died of cancer which doctors believe was contracted after he was exposed to the Aids virus, a hospital spokesman said today.

The spokesman for the All India Institute of Medical Sciences said U.G. Mwila, Zambia's high commissioner or ambassador, died Saturday.

The immediate cause of death was a cardio-respiratory failure but the patient was suffering from a terminal ailment, said the spokesman, who cannot be identified under the institute's rules. (AP)

American killed in Panama: A gunman shot and killed a senior American employee of the Panama Canal during a robbery at his home in Panama City, a spokeswoman for the Panama Canal Commission said today.

"He was shot last night in his house," said spokeswoman, Willic Friar. Friar said two men, at least one of whom was armed, entered the house at about 8:45 pm last night, and that the American was shot during the robbery. He died early today at a US army hospital, she said. (Reuters)

Elderly widow evicted: A 74-year-old widow who houses a walker was evicted yesterday from the home where she has lived for 25 years for defaulting on her government loan.

Mable Roper said she had no idea she was about to be evicted and claimed she was not behind on her mortgage payments.

"All my stuff is scattered everywhere," she said as her belongings were carted out of the brick bungalow and dumped on the curb. (AP)

Defence minister resigns: Argentine Defence Minister Italo Luder abruptly resigned today in a disagreement with Army Chief of Staff Gen. Jaime Caceres.

Luder quit after telling a radio station he had ordered that Caceres be disciplined for arranging a meeting last week with President Carlos Menem that excluded Luder.

Caceres discussed military problems, including internal security, at the dinner meeting with President Menem and other top aides, Luder told Radio Mitre. "I was in the city ... and did not know of the meal," he said. (AP)

Soviet intrusions: The Soviet military intelligence agency GRU has been sending mini-submarines into Swedish territorial waters, a peace researcher said today.

The intrusions, which previously were assumed to be carried out by the Soviet Navy, were launched from a mobile trailer system roaming the coast of the Soviet Baltic states, said Wilhelm Agrell, in a radio interview.

The GRU also sent larger intelligence-gathering submarines into Swedish waters, Agrell said. (AP)

Saudi travelling show

Parade to fight drugs

NICOSIA, Jan 24, (Reuters): Camels, actors, a helicopter and thousands of balloons are being thrown into battle in Saudi Arabia's war against drugs.

They will form part of a travelling show which will kick off in Riyadh's sports stadium on Saturday and circle through 11 cities in the following 34 days.

Saudis attracted by gift tokens, music and the colourful parade will hear loudspeakers blaring slogans from the holy Quran and be told to "stay away from things banned by God and harmful to man, society and religion."

Leaflets, balloons, a short play and a special new song will drive home the message against drug abuse.

Saudi Arabia made drug dealing a capital crime in 1987. Many of the 99 people publicly beheaded in the kingdom last year were convicted on narcotics charges.

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Manila rebels get big guns

N.Korean arms for NPA

MANILA, Jan 24, (Reuters): The Philippines is investigating newspaper reports that a foreign ship unloaded hundreds of guns near Manila for army rebels involved in plots to overthrow President Corazon Aquino, officials say.

"This is still being verified ... the chief of staff has already asked the navy to follow this up," Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos told reporters today.

Two Manila newspapers earlier said a foreign vessel bearing Arabic markings landed crates of high-powered rifles off the coast of Cavite province on the night of Jan 12.

The newspapers, quoting intelligence sources, said the unidentified ship was met at sea by 15 fishing boats that took the arms cache to Cavite, just south of Manila.

Army rebels who last month nearly toppled Aquino in the sixth and most serious coup attempt against her have warned they will soon launch a new revolt.

Armed forces chief General Renato de Villa said yesterday coup threats would linger for as long as leaders of the failed rebellion were at large, but he doubted they could launch

another mutiny of the same scale as that last month.

The Manila Times newspaper said the smuggling of guns into Cavite coincided with the sighting of fugitive coup leader ex-colonel Gregorio Honasan in a Cavite resthouse owned by a local official.

Cavite is the site of the Sangley Point naval station from which rebel pilots took off to bomb the presidential palace during the December coup attempt.

Army rebels say Aquino is a weak leader who is driving poor Filipinos to communism by ignoring basic needs.

Government lawyers today filed graft charges against opposition Senator Juan Ponce Enrile before a presidential commission tracking down the allegedly ill-gotten wealth of the late president Ferdinand Marcos and associates.

Enrile called the charges "flimsy" and "part of the harassment" the government had launched against him for his alleged role in the December revolt.

The government accused Enrile, facing rebellion charges for alleged links with army

rebels, and three others of diverting 10 million pesos (\$450,000) in 1976 from a fund for coconut farmers to a state theatre built by Marcos's wife, Imelda.

The commission's prosecutors can either dismiss the case or if it finds enough evidence, send it to court for trial.

Communist guerrillas have forged an agreement with North Korea to provide arms in exchange for information on US military facilities in the Philippines, said captured rebel documents released by the Philippine military today.

The documents were captured during the raid Oct 4 in suburban San Juan town that led to the capture of Wilma Tiamzon, a member of the politburo of the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines, a military statement said. Tiamzon escaped from a military camp during a Christmas Mass.

The military statement did not say if the Koreans had actually shipped arms to the Philippine communists armed with the 19,000-strong New People's Army, which has been battling the Manila government for two decades.

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World News Roundup

America

Testifies against Barry: A former model who co-operated with the FBI in the arrest of Mayor Marion Barry on a cocaine possession charge testified Tuesday before a federal grand jury considering further criminal charges in Washington.

Rashoda Moore, 38, who law enforcement sources have said called Barry to the hotel room where he was arrested, appeared before the closed grand jury session for 2-1/2 hours. She entered and left the US courthouse under tight security.

Meanwhile, US attorney Jay Stephens told the federal court Tuesday that the government opposes a request by Barry's lawyers to suspend court-ordered, weekly drug testing while the mayor is in a Florida Treatment Centre. (AP)

Homeless man beaten to death: New York City officials searched on Tuesday for the identity of a ragged homeless beggar who spat once too often at strangers and was beaten to death on an underground railway platform as a result.

Police said it was the latest in a rising number of violent acts against the city's estimated 75,000 homeless people.

The beggar was beaten to death on Sunday night by a man on a platform who was returning home from seeing "Back to the Future II" with his three-year-old son. (Reuters)

Death row inmate freed: A black man who was on death row in a Texas prison for nearly nine years was freed on bail on Tuesday after an appeals court overturned his murder conviction on grounds that it was tainted by racism.

Clarence Brandley, 38, left the Texas department of corrections unit in Huntsville, Texas, to the cheers of other inmates on Tuesday.

"I'm just going to take it one day at a time. Right now I'm going to see my mother," Brandley told reporters. (Reuters)

Man who burned son gets parole: California police took special measures on Tuesday in Los Angeles to guard the family of Charles Rothenberg hours before he was due to be paroled after serving a six-year sentence for trying to burn his son to death.

David Rothenberg, who was just six years old when he was doused with kerosene and torched, says he fears his father will come looking for him, even though the elder Rothenberg has vowed he will never try to contact or hurt the boy.

"He will be out there free," David, now 13, said recently. "I will have to live the rest of my life on the line, always looking behind me." (Reuters)

"Tired of fighting": Retired grocery clerk Bruno Karl Blach has agreed to face charges of killing concentration camp prisoners because he is 70 years old and tired of fighting, his lawyer said on Tuesday in Los Angeles.

"He is relieved this process is about to be over," the lawyer, Ronald Parker, said. "He knows this cloud is going to be over his head until the matter is resolved."

Blach, an alleged former concentration camp guard and dog handler, was charged by a West German court in Duisburg last June with killing prisoners during a forced march in April 1945 shortly before the Second World War ended. (Reuters)

Rostropovich visit homeland: Conductor Mstislav Rostropovich said Tuesday in Washington he will return to the Soviet Union for a concert tour next month with "enormous emotion" but rejected any notion that he might end 16 years of exile in the West.

Rostropovich, music director of the National Symphony Orchestra, said he and his wife, Soprano Galina Vishnevskaya, were happy that Soviet authorities had "admitted their mistake" and decided to restore the citizenship stripped from them in 1978.

But Rostropovich made clear during a session with reporters that the couple has no intention of returning permanently to their homeland. (AP)

Computer security: The US government's first conviction of a hacker under a 1986 computer tampering law may bolster the often-criticized statute, but experts said Tuesday in Syracuse, New York, it still needs changes to improve computer security.

Computer experts who testified during the trial of Robert T. Morris and members of Congress said the 1986 law will not likely be revised because it is vague and outdated.

"We still need to amend the act to resolve the ambiguities," said Theodore Hagelin, director of Syracuse University's law technology and management programme. (AP)

Secord unrepentant: Retired US air force General Richard Secord shows no remorse for his role in the Iran-Contra affair and denies making exorbitant profits in the scandal, prosecutors say.

Secord, who helped arm the Nicaraguan



Fighting drugs

US President George Bush visited an urban frontline in the war on drugs on Tuesday as the White House played down a report that there were fears for his safety at next month's drug summit in Colombia.

Bush walked through a Kansas City neighbourhood where residents have managed to shut down a number of "crack houses" where the potent form of cocaine was sold and smoked.

Presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater said the Secret Service assured the White House it was confident of its ability to protect Bush when he travels to Cartagena to meet the leaders of Colombia, Bolivia and Peru.

Bush is seen in the picture with Al Brooks (right) founder of a Kansas City group fighting drugs. (Reuters wirephoto)

A misnomer

Midlife crisis

WASHINGTON, Jan 24, (Kuna): Contrary to popular belief, "midlife crisis" is a misnomer for what people in their 40s and 50s are supposed to go through, a new study released yesterday asserted.

Instead of a "crisis," the American board of family practice study said, the middle age finds most people caring, compassionate and close to others.

That includes men, who previously were believed to be less "nurturing" on family matters than women.

One unexpected finding was that 89 per cent of both sexes said they were becoming more close to their spouses, friends and children. And 89 per cent of men said they were willing to help an adult child of theirs financially.

This does not alter the fact many people 45-65 find the "middle of the road" very hard in economic terms, according to the Board of Family Practice.



Bowie announces tour

Rock star David Bowie plays the guitar during a new conference at the Rainbow Theatre in London Jan 23. Bowie announced at the conference that his 1990 New World Tour will begin in Canada in March.

Contras and ship arms to Iran for the government of former President Ronald Reagan, faces sentencing Wednesday after pleading guilty on Nov 8 to making a false statement to congressional investigators.

Question list: John Poindexter must produce a list of specific questions he intends to ask former President Ronald Reagan at Poindexter's Iran-Contra trial, a federal judge ordered yesterday in Washington.

US district court judge Harold Greene said Poindexter's request for Reagan's testimony was too broad, encompassing "wide-ranging subjects" such as US use of foreign airfields and meetings between Reagan and the Tower commission.

Greene said that "until such focused questions are submitted" he will be unable to decide whether to approve Poindexter's request to subpoena Reagan at the former national security adviser's trial, scheduled to begin Feb 20. (AP)

Bush plans to elevate: President George Bush will support a proposal to elevate the US Environmental Protection Agency to a cabinet-level department of the government, congressional and administration sources say in Washington.

The president was meeting Tuesday with sponsors of the legislation, and sources said Bush planned to announce his endorsement afterward, although he still has some reservations about parts of the bill pending in the US Senate and House of Representatives.

Earlier this week, administration officials confirmed that key presidential advisers have reversed their position and now support giving the EPA equal footing with other cabinet-level departments, such as state, defence, education, interior and commerce. (AP)

Europe

Black on top: A black man is to be appointed as the British government's top new adviser on immigration, it was reported today.

Barrister John Taylor, of West Indian descent, takes up his job as political adviser to British Home Office ministers next month, officials confirmed.

It is the most significant governmental position ever given to a black, it was pointed out. (Kuna)

Dalai Lama visit: The Dalai Lama, Tibet's spiritual leader, will visit Prague Feb 2-6 and meditate with President Václav Havel, the Lidova Demokracie daily reported today.

The Dalai Lama "will be personal guest of the president with whom he will spend some time in meditation," the paper reported.

The newspaper indicated there was some Chinese concern over the visit. Havel invited Chinese ambassador to Prague Wang Jing Fa to talk yesterday at which the diplomat "informed the president of the standpoint of his government." (AP)

Multi-million property: Poland's Communist Party, facing a storm of demands to surrender its wealth, admitted today it amassed a real estate empire worth tens of millions of dollars during its 45 years in power.

The party owned buildings, holiday centres, vehicles, publishing houses, printing presses and machinery worth more than \$75 million, a party official told the communist daily Trybuna Ludu.

The admission, three days before the party plans to disband and form a non-Marxist party, followed a wave of sit-ins by radicals demanding the return of buildings to the state and a proposal in parliament to nationalise all the party's assets. (Reuters)

Confidence vote: Italy's six-month old coalition government faces its first major test in a confidence vote today, only a day after an embarrassing parliamentary defeat.

Christian Democrat Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti called the vote, which commentators expect the government to win, after Tuesday's defeat by 231 votes to 224 in a secret ballot on anti-trust legislation.

The defeat sparked a row with the Socialists, second biggest party in the five-party coalition, who championed the motion. (Reuters)

Blow to Soviets: The director of the Central Intelligence Agency told Congress yesterday that Eastern Europe's tumultuous push for democracy has cut the Soviet threat to the West.

William Webster, in an unusual public appearance before the Senate Armed Services Committee, said that as unchallenged communist control comes to an end in the Eastern bloc, those nations' links to Moscow have been radically changed.

The result, he said, is a severe blow to the Soviet Union's certainty that Eastern Europe will respond to Moscow's military directives. (AP)

Schulz honoured: Cartoonist Charles Schulz drew lofty praise from the keepers of French culture yesterday as they lavishly celebrated the 40th birthday of America's favourite floppy-eared dog, the irrepressible Snoopy.

The beagle was glorified with a giant retrospective at the Decorative Arts Museum. French Culture Minister Jack Lang named Schulz a "commander of arts and letters," one of France's highest awards for excellence in the arts. (AP)

Sex association: The German sex union (DSU) has been founded in East Germany for those who don't see democratic politics as life's sole pleasure.



Winner Paula robbed

The upstart dance music duo Milli Vanilli and country crooner Randy Travis topped the 17th annual American Music Awards with three trophies each.

Janet Jackson, Bobby Brown, Paula Abdul, M.C. Hammer, New Kids on the Block and Guns N' Roses won two awards each.

During the awards show, police said, thieves snatched Milli Vanilli's studio city apartment and stole jewelry estimated to be worth more than \$240,000.

Nominees were compiled from year-end charts in the music industry trade publication Cash Box. Winners were selected by 20,000 members of the public chosen on the basis of age, sex, geographic location and ethnicity.

Britain's most wasted resources: women

101 countries ratify UN treaty

UNITED NATIONS, Jan 24, (AP): The head of a UN committee on discrimination against women said yesterday that 101 countries have agreed to an international treaty on equal rights for men and women, while Islamic countries have stipulated that they will not be bound by provisions in violation of Islamic teachings that establish different rights for men and women.

Sixty UN members, including the United States, have not ratified the document.

Elizabeth Evatt of Australia said some countries have endorsed the treaty while stipulating reservations to certain portions like the Islamic nations, but the committee hopes to encourage those nations to eventually agree to all of the provisions.

"This is something the committee is very concerned about and has interest in. And we try to ask of these Islamic countries for more information about what Islamic means for the status of women in a particular country," Ms. Evatt said at a news conference.

The UN General Assembly adopted the

measures on women's rights in 1979 and it became an international treaty after the 20th country ratified it in 1981.

The treaty calls for states to take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to guarantee equal rights for men and women. It specifies civil rights, family planning, political access and employment opportunities as key areas of concern.

Ms. Evatt said that because 101 members have ratified the document it has "universal validity." She said the committee is focusing on some issues regarded as critical to the promotion of women's rights world-wide.

One of the most important issues that the committee takes up with states is their provision of family planning and abortion services for women, Ms. Evatt said.

She said the committee also plans to address circumcision of women in some countries, hoping that debate will lead to "recommendations we can make to change this traditional practice."

Ms. Evatt said the basic issues in the cam-



Black is beautiful

French designer Emanuel Ungaro shows his 1990 Spring and Summer collection Jan 23. The models are wearing black organza cocktail dresses and fan style hats. (Reuters wirephoto)

US companies join hands

Developing space plane

ST LOUIS, Missouri, Jan 24, (Reuters): Five US aerospace companies joined forces yesterday to design a long-dreamed-of space plane which would fly in orbit at 25 times the speed of sound and cut flying time between New York and Tokyo from 14 hours to two.

The strictly experimental project — dubbed the national aero-space plane X-30 — has been funded since 1985 with roughly \$2 billion in funds split between the federal government and the five companies.

The companies in the consortium — airplane designers General Dynamics Corp., McDonnell Douglas Corp. and Rockwell International Corp. and engine makers Pratt and Whitney and Rockwell's Rocketdyne division — had been working independently. The Defence Department said the

US Space Agency had been overseeing the project.

The US team will likely be racing rival projects in Europe, Japan and the Soviet Union.

The idea won prominence in the United States four years ago when former president Ronald Reagan backed a high-tech "orient express".

But aerospace analysts said the teaming up of companies suggests the space plane is not a realistic business project.

"It's more like a research and development exercise," said one analyst, who asked not to be named. "It won't be seen for 10 years and might turn out like the Concorde, which failed because it was too expensive to build and fly," he said.

Asia

Opting for greener pastures: The lure of better pay and perks overseas has resulted in a serious shortage of trained nurses in Malaysian private and government hospitals, according to several medical directors today.

They said although there are no records kept on the exact number of nurses who have opted for greener pastures abroad, the situation has become acute over the past two years.

Nurses who have gone to work in Saudi Arabia, for example, are reported to earn tax-free income of about US\$1,900 a month, inclusive of 40 days paid leave, return air tickets home annually, transport and accommodation. (Kuna)

Overriding Bush veto: President George Bush faced a major defeat on his China policy on Wednesday as the House of Representatives prepared to vote on overriding his veto of a bill protecting Chinese students in the United States.

Democrats, who control both the house and Senate, have accused Bush of kowtowing to Beijing after the Chinese government complained bitterly about the bill, which would allow Chinese students to stay in the United States while seeking changes in immigration status.

But Bush, a former envoy to China, has warned against isolating Beijing after its bloody crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in June. (Reuters)

Chinese police mobilised: Hundreds of armed police have been standing 24-hour guard in the southern city of Canton because thousands of Chinese who live outside China are expected to return this weekend for the Chinese New Year, a local newspaper reported in Beijing.

The Yangcheng evening news said 400 armed police were mobilised Jan 12 to stand guard round-the-clock at 26 trouble spots in Canton, about 120 kilometres (75 miles) north of Hong Kong and the nearest large city to the British colony.

One possible aim of the increased security is preventing Chinese from taking advantage of the crush of holiday visitors to elude authorities and try to escape to Hong Kong. Several leaders

of last year's pro-democracy movement fled to the British colony after the bloody military crackdown last June, and Chinese newspapers have reported the arrests in Canton of others trying to escape. (AP)

Australian shot dead: Suspected rebels shot and killed an expatriate Australian on Wednesday in the first fatal attack against a foreigner since a secessionist uprising flared on the island of Bougainville 14 months ago, a news report said in Port Moresby.

A local man also was wounded in the attack at the Bougainville copper mine and taken to a local hospital with head injuries, the Australian Associated Press reported.

The identity of the dead man was not immediately available, but AAP said he apparently worked at the mine and had recently arrived in Papua New Guinea. He was attacked while working on a jungle airstrip capable of receiving military aircraft. (AP)

Armed troops keep watch: Burmese soldiers patrolled downtown Rangoon Wednesday after scattered demonstrations in support of detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi. Western diplomats said when reached by telephone in Bangkok.

The diplomats in Rangoon said several hundred chanting protesters gathered near city hall on Monday, anticipating a final ruling on whether Ms Suu Kyi would be allowed to run for parliament in the May 27 elections. One diplomat said he had reports on another small demonstration in Rangoon on Tuesday evening.

The opposition leader was disqualified by the election commission last week, but her party has appealed the decision to the commission's central body. She has been under house arrest since July. (AP)



Prego testifies

Dr Veronica Prego testifies Jan 22 at her multi-million dollar lawsuit trial in Brooklyn, NY claiming she was infected by a disease from AIDS needle in a Brooklyn hospital in 1983. Prego is suing the hospital for \$175 million. (Reuters wirephoto)

Latin America

Endara calls for neutrality: Panamanian President Guillermo Endara, concluding his first foreign trip since being installed during the US invasion last month, said Tuesday in San Jose, Costa Rica neutrality will be the main defence of Panama Canal, which must be transferred to his country at the turn of the century.

"The canal is defended by its neutrality. The neutrality of the canal would give all countries of the world the right to transit freely through it," Endara told reporters before departing for home.

Endara said the Panama Canal treaty, signed by former president Jimmy Carter and late Panamanian leader Omar Torrijos in 1977, cannot be renegotiated. (UPI)

Case against Noriega: Although the US case against deposed Panamanian dictator Gen. Manuel Noriega is one of the "hottest" in US history, it is weak and plagued by lack of preparation and squabbling among prosecutors, US officials said Tuesday in Washington.

Noriega has been in custody in Miami, Florida on drug charges since being brought to the US last month after the American military intervention in Panama.

Although President George Bush apparently is counting on a conviction of Noriega, anonymous officials close to the case told the New York Times the case already is embarrassing the administration. (Kuna)

Move to protect Noriega secrets: The US government sought Tuesday to protect top secret intelligence files prosecutors fear will be compromised by the Manuel Antonio Noriega case, a move that prompted protests from defence attorneys in Miami.

A motion filed in US district court here said investigators anticipate discovering Noriega-linked CIA records classified top secret, secret, confidential and "sensitive compartmented information."

"The unauthorised disclosure and uncontrolled dissemination of such information would cause exceptionally grave damage to the national security of the United States," the motion said. (AP)

Kennedy condemns invasion: Senator Edward Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, issued a broad criticism Tuesday of the US invasion of Panama Dec 20, saying the operation was unjustified and has done long-term damage to US diplomacy in Latin America.

"Historians will eventually tally these costs and judge the wisdom of the action," Kennedy told the Senate. "Already, however, this 'feel good' invasion does not feel so good anymore."

Kennedy praised the skill and courage of the American servicemen in the operation that ultimately toppled military dictator Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega and brought him to the United States to face drug-trafficking charges. (UPI)

Escobar still in control: A letter purportedly from Medellin cartel leader Pablo Escobar says he remains in control of Colombia's most powerful cocaine trafficking outfit and that it is united in its decision to seek peace with the government.

The letter also swore the cartel would continue a war with a rival organisation based in the southern city of Cali.

It accused the Cali cartel of providing authorities with information that led to the death of his close associate, Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, in a shootout with police last month. (AP)

Expelled chiefs can return: Haiti's military government said on Tuesday it will go ahead with scheduled presidential elections despite the state of siege and even those who have been deported can return to run.

General Fritz Roumulus, Haiti's defence and interior minister, reaffirmed the government's pledge to hold general elections in spite of the three-day-old state of siege in which dozens of people have been detained, some expelled, and the news media censored.

The statement appeared to be an attempt to satisfy US demands for proof that military ruler Prosper Avril was still prepared to go ahead with elections scheduled for October 28. (Reuters)

Contras killed nuns: Human rights and church investigators on Tuesday blamed Contra rebels for killing two nuns in a New Year's Day ambush but said the attackers had probably mistaken the churchworkers for Sandinista officials.

The leftist Sandinista government had earlier accused the US-backed rebels of killing an American and a Nicaraguan nun and wounding a third nun and a US bishop. (Reuters)

John, in 1990

US cautious over Soviet troop cut

WASHINGTON, Jan 24, (AP): A senior administration arms control adviser raised concerns yesterday about unilateral Soviet troop withdrawals from Eastern and Central Europe, saying they could increase political pressure for reciprocal cutbacks in the West.

Edward L. Rowley, a former negotiator who counseled President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker on arms control issues, said it would be far better to carry out troop withdrawals under a treaty now being negotiated between NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

Despite "unprecedented progress," Rowley said several vital issues remained unresolved in

the Vienna talks. He said they include Soviet insistence on excluding large numbers of combat aircraft from treaty controls and not accepting Western demands that withdrawn troops be demobilized.

Also, he said, the Soviets so far have agreed only to remove military equipment that would be barred under the treaty—not to destroy it, as negotiators for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization insist.

And yet, Rowley said, the end of the Communist Party's monopoly on power in the Soviet bloc "makes prospects for completing a sound conventional forces reduction treaty more

promising."

The senior US official spoke at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. His prepared remarks were distributed in Washington.

Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev have set completion of the treaty as one of their arms control goals for 1990. And Rowley, in a detailed review, listed many more issues as being resolved than still unsettled.

He also raised several questions about the withdrawals of troops and tanks that the Soviets have begun from Central and Eastern Europe outside the treaty. Pressure is building from the new leaders of Czechoslovakia and

Hungary for further reductions.

Rowley said pullouts could be verified only under a treaty.

He noted that congressional observers last summer determined that while the Soviets had withdrawn some tanks from Eastern Europe they had left other weapons, including artillery, behind.

Premier Miklos Nemeth yesterday said he and his Soviet counterpart agreed that Soviet troops have outlived their usefulness on Hungarian soil and that preliminary talks on their withdrawal would start soon.

Democracy Western style 'not for Romania'

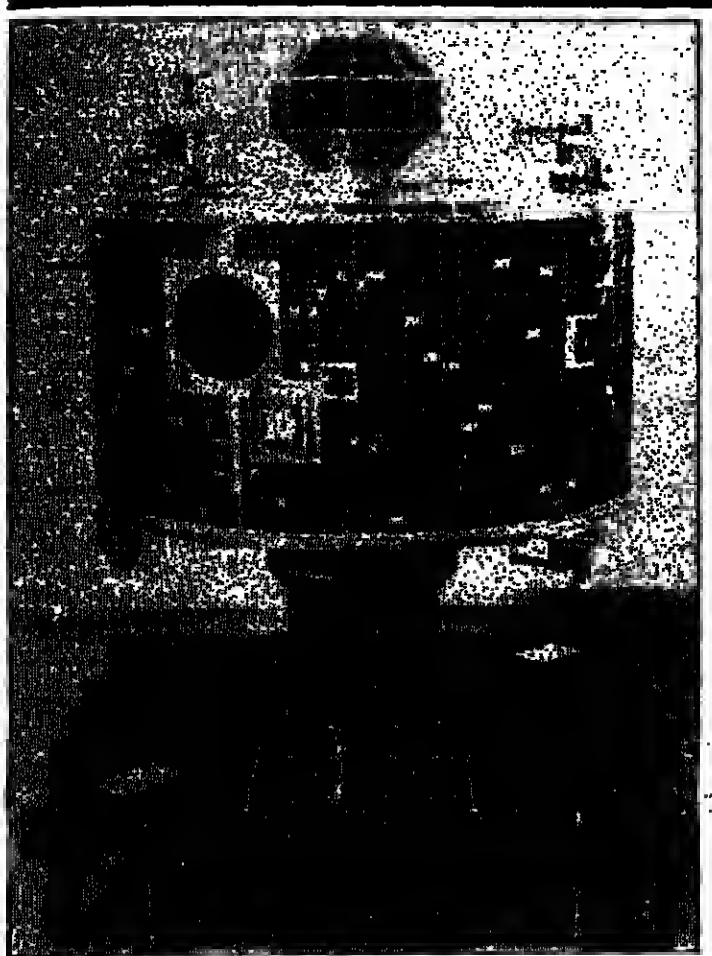
Hundreds march to protest Front's participation in elections

BUCHAREST, Jan 24, (AP): Romania's first free elections in more than four decades are to be held May 20, and UN observers will be asked to monitor balloting, a senior member of the provisional government announced yesterday.

Dimitrie Mazilu, on the council of the National Salvation Front that has run Romania since Nicolae Ceausescu was toppled and executed last month, told reporters that Front candidates would run for Parliament. Initially, the Front had indicated it would not field

candidates. Meanwhile, interim president Ion Iliescu, in separate comments reported by the Soviet news agency Tass, rejected the idea of a multiparty system as "a historically outdated model of democracy."

Iliescu said the front should take part in the elections as a "broad-based organization of people of divergent views, united on a broad platform of national unity," according to Tass.



Muses-A launched

Japan's first spacecraft bound for the Moon rocketed into the night skies off the coast of southern Japan yesterday on a mission that is part of an ambitious space programme, a launch official said.

The Muses-A (picture) spacecraft blasted off at 1146 GMT carrying two satellites that will reach the Moon on March 18, said the official of the government's Institute of Space and Astronautical Science (ISAS).

If all goes well, Japan will become the third nation after the United States and the Soviet Union to send a probe into orbit around the Earth's nearest celestial neighbour.

The Muses-A mission is aimed at teaching scientists and engineers how to harness the gravity of the Moon to land spacecraft on the lunar surface or to swing them deeper into space to rendezvous with Venus or with comets. Such missions are being contemplated for later this decade. (Reuters wirephoto)

Japan polls set for Feb 18

TOKYO, Jan 24, (Reuters): Japan's cabinet today dissolved the lower house of Parliament and set Feb 18 as the date for general elections, which will be the toughest test for the Liberal Democratic Party in its 34-year rule.

The two-week campaign, which will kick off officially on February 3, will show how well the ruling party has survived opposition attacks on the issue of political ethics, an unpopular sales tax and farm policies.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and other LDP leaders said their target was to win 257 seats, a simple majority, in the 512-member lower house.

Top government spokesman Mayumi Moriyama said the election was a choice between liberalism and socialism. "In the world, the superiority of freedom, democracy and the market economy, which we have chosen, has been confirmed," Moriyama, the chief cabinet secretary, said in reference to recent events in Eastern Europe.

"This will show whether politics in the 1990s, a decade when Japan must make difficult international decisions, will be steered by the LDP or the Socialists," LDP Secretary-General Ichiro Ozawa said.

The upper house, the less powerful of the two chambers, is under opposition control after the LDP's historic defeat in elections last July.

That defeat, the worst since the LDP's formation in 1955, was blamed on the inept introduction of the unpopular sales tax, the Recruit shares-for-favours scandal and government attempts to open farm trade to imports.

The main opposition Japan Socialist Party criticised the government for dissolving parliament before Kaifu had delivered a traditional policy speech.

"Mr Kaifu dissolved the Diet without giving us a chance to ask questions on his policy speech. This cannot be accepted," Japan socialist chairwoman Takako Doi said in a nationally televised interview.

The head of another opposition party, the Buddhist-backed Komeito, said the LDP was politically bankrupt.

"The LDP is in a blind alley. We will have to build an entire new era," said Komeito chairman Koshiro Isaka.

"It is about time for the average citizen to participate in politics here as they have done in many Eastern European nations," said Satsuki Eda, leader of the opposition Socialist Democratic Federation.

Several hundred Romanians marched through central Bucharest today in a spontaneous protest against plans by the ruling National Salvation Front to co-opt next May's free general elections.

"We want an end to communism," the protesters shouted as they marched through freezing fog to the front's headquarters.

The headquarters, in the Foreign Ministry building, was cordoned off by soldiers and police. Witnesses saw three truckloads of troop reinforcements driving towards Victory Square, where the ministry is located.

Demonstrators continued to arrive in the square, where their leaders argued with senior army officers as lines of troops stood by. No incidents or arrests were reported.

Meanwhile, Justice Minister Teodor Vasiliu set Saturday as the date of the initial Bucharest trial of Ceausescu associates and said the four former top officials would be the first to go to court on abetting genocide and other charges.

Another development, a historian describing the last moments of Ceausescu and his wife said the two had run in panic from the firing squad lined up to execute them Dec 25.

The dictator was finally cornered and shot. His wife was fatally shot in the back and then sprayed frontally with bullets, historian Cristian Popescu said.

In the remarks reported by Tass, Iliescu said other Warsaw Pact countries' moves toward Western-style democracy, "does not suit us."

"We do not want to follow any model, including the model of bourgeois democracy in Romania in the 30s," Iliescu, a former ranking communist official, was quoted as saying. Silviu Brucan, another prominent ex-communist and Front member, told a news conference that May 20 would be election day, delaying the vote from an unspecified date in April first announced by the council.

Brucan said the decision was in response to requests from new political parties for more time to campaign and was reached at a meeting of the Front yesterday afternoon. The council reversed its initial pledge that it would play no role in elections "in response to the many demands from the mining workers, from various (other) workers, students from the polytechnic institute, others and intellectuals," he asserted.

"The council, to demonstrate goodwill and a desire to ensure objectivity in the elections, has declared its readiness to receive a group of observers from the United Nations," he added.

There was no immediate UN response to the statement.

A Romanian lawyer who defended ousted Ceausescu and his wife Elena at their trial said the condemned couple did not realise their fate was imminent, then a firing squad pumped them with bullets.

Czechoslovakia: President Vaclav Havel yesterday announced he would invite Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and US President George Bush to meet in Prague as a symbol of East-West reconciliation.

East Germany: East Germany's inexperienced opposition yesterday put off talks on power-sharing with the still-dominant communists until next week, as the reformists pondered how much government responsibility they want.

Bulgaria: A leader of the Agrarian Union, until recently completely dominated by the ruling Communist Party, yesterday said her party was opposed to retaining in the constitution Bulgaria's definition as a "socialist state."

Vapoevlav: About 20,000 ethnic Albanians, mostly university students and workers, demonstrated in the troubled Kosovo province today, demanding that a state of emergency be lifted in the region and protesting alleged human rights abuses.

Hun Sen unveils peace formula

PHNOM PENH, Jan 24, (Agencies): Prime Minister Hun Sen today outlined his own formula for peace in Cambodia, saying it could break the deadlock in the 11-year conflict.

He told a news conference that under the plan, inspired by an Australian peace initiative, two Cambodian administrations would operate in areas each claimed while the United Nations arranged a ceasefire and general elections.

Hun Sen denied charges by the Khmer Rouge and other guerrilla groups that this would involve partitioning the country. He said it embraced the Australian approach, which calls for a UN-administered trusteeship for Cambodia while elections are organised.

The Phnom Penh government is now leading a coalition of three guerrilla groups.

Looking relaxed and confident, Hun Sen said: "We can regard the Australian proposal as the one which could break the deadlock which happened during the Paris conference."

The international conference in Paris last summer ended in a political stalemate, with the four sides taking their struggle back to the battlefield in the past four months.

As the guerrillas made gains, with the Khmer Rouge in the forefront, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council last week found a new consensus on the road to peace based on a central UN role.

Hun Sen, who earlier this month had talks with Australian officials and Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, said his plan got round the two main obstacles, a role for the Khmer Rouge and an interim administration.

Diplomats said he had clearly made two important concessions, acceptance of a major UN role and of presence of the Khmer Rouge in some form in a settlement process. Both had been rejected in the past.

But they said the danger of the proposal was that it encouraged further fighting, with each side trying to grab as much territory as possible before a ceasefire.

The 38-year-old premier still refused to recognise a Khmer Rouge government, which Western governments say killed more than one million Cambodians before it was ousted by the 1978 Vietnamese invasion.

But he said he would accept the coalition government of Democratic Kampuchea, the loose alliance of the three guerrilla factions, as a whole even if it included Khmer Rouge.

He said the United Nations could supervise a ceasefire and elections while the two sides ruled territory under their control.

Khmer Rouge guerrillas have moved the seriously ill and virtually all other Cambodian refugees from a United Nations-aided camp toward the dangerous Thai-Cambodian border, a UN official said today.

The communist fighters herded the refugees out of Borai camp in eastern Thailand, apparently to prevent UN officials from transferring them to nearby Site K, a new camp that is safer and has better medical and other services, the official reported.

Cambodia's reluctant prince, Norodom Sihanouk, announced today he had resigned as president of the resistance's coalition government and would indefinitely cease meeting with most foreign diplomats.

He repeated an earlier statement that he will not attend any international conferences aimed at trying to resolve the Cambodian war.

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Seoul dissidents pledge drive against merger

SEOUL, Jan 24, (AP): South Korea's largest dissident alliance pledged today to launch a civil drive to stop President Roh Tae-Woo's governing party, and two opposition parties from joining in a new conservative group.

Meanwhile, police said hundreds of police officers were mobilized to protect the two opposition leaders whose homes and offices have been flooded with threatening telephone calls since they announced the merger.

Leaders of the United National Democratic Movement, an umbrella organization for about 200 dissident groups, agreed to launch a nation-wide movement with "all democratic forces" opposing the new party, a spokesman said.

He said that in its drive, the dissident alliance was ready to establish connections with radical students, workers and Kim Dae-Jung, who heads the Party for Peace and Democracy, the largest opposition party.

The spokesman did not mention what methods the alliance might use in its drive, although it called for immediate National Assembly elections to seek a public judgement on the merger, which it called an attempt by a pro-US military dictatorship to prolong its power.

The dissident organization played a key role in sparking months of widespread street protests that forced the government to carry out broad reforms in 1987.



Amir patronises cadet officers graduation

Under the auspices of His Highness the Amir, a graduation ceremony for the 18th batch of cadet officers was held yesterday at the Police Academy.

Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad, Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, ahlak, ministers and high ranking government officials.

A group of the 18th batch of cadet officers handed the colours of the academy to the cadet officers of the 18th batch.

Director General of the Academy Brigadier Khalid Al Munayes delivered a speech in which he said that among the 112-member 18th batch there were cadet officers from Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, and stressed that the attendance of HH the Amir is an honour and a motive for a good start for the practical life of the officers.

Brigadier Munayes said that the achievements of the police academy were due to the care extended to it by HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Premier as well as continued support of the interior minister.

HH the Amir handed prizes and certificates to the distinguished officers, Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah told reporters that he hopes that the graduates would succeed in serving Kuwait and its political and social security.

He added that "we have trained them to respect human beings and to implement laws which have the final say against anyone who violates or tries to challenge law and order, and I pray that God would preserve Kuwait's security and stability under the leadership of His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister".

Peninsula Shield to stay in Saudi Arabia

Kuwait conscription law to be reviewed

KUWAIT, Jan 24, (Kuna): Deputy Chief of Staff Major General Jaber Al Khalid Al Sabah today affirmed that the headquarters of the military forces of the Gulf Cooperation Council will continue to be in Saudi Arabia.

"The Peninsula Shield will remain in its current site in Haifa El Batin ... there is no intention of change," the Kuwaiti military commander told a local Arabic newspaper in an interview published here.

He pointed out that the present location of the headquarters of the forces is "very good" and that GCC military officials

have no plans to relocate the headquarters to somewhere else.

The Peninsula Shield Force of the GCC states is a 12,000-man force composed of soldiers from the regular armies of the six states making up the GCC.

The force was established years ago and received utmost attention to produce the most qualified soldiers who are ready to defend the countries of the Gulf at short notice.

On another issue, the deputy chief of state said the conscription law in Kuwait needs to be reviewed in light of continued

changes in Kuwait.

Asked if there is intention to increase the number of years of service for enlisted soldiers and officers, he replied that when the law is reviewed, officials will try to pin down the negative aspects on previous experiences and introduce new positive ones, even if that requires increasing the period of military service.

Kuwait has no trend to reduce its military staff, rather it encourages citizens to join the defence forces and has established a military academy to graduate specialised and qualified officers.

He added that Bubiyan, Warba and Failaka Islands are predominantly military zones and it is imperative that armed forces will continually make their presence felt in these and other similar areas.

He envisaged the extension and expansion of Kuwaiti housing areas to encompass all Kuwaiti borders with neighbouring countries.

The official said that the recent visit of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister to Egypt was aimed at developing military and political relations.

Kuwait to host international conference on Aids Feb 12-14

38 cases identified

By Diana Abou Haidar
Arab Times Staff

A THOUSAND specialists on acquired immune deficiency syndrome (Aids) will meet in Kuwait next month to discuss the latest development concerning prevention of the disease and care for its carriers, announced Dr Hussain Al Momen in a press conference yesterday.

The Kuwait Third International Conference on Aids will be held from Feb 12 to 14, said Dr Momen, head of the conference's press committee. He added that participants will follow up on issues discussed in the preceding two conferences.

"This event which will be held under the auspices of HH the Crown Prince will witness the announcement of Kuwait's Declaration for the Prevention of Aids, a distinguished national document about every thing that has to do with public awareness about this disease," said Dr Momen stressing that awareness is the only weapon that could be used against it especially when no vaccines and no cures have been developed yet.

Abdul Aziz Al Bashir, manager of the Blood Bank and head of the conference's social committee, said that Kuwait was one of the first countries in the Middle East that adopted blood screening tests to ensure that blood given to patients is not contaminated with Aids. "We succeeded in introducing these tests in all Arab countries and



Dr Momen... awareness

training their staff to do such tests in co-operation with the Arab Consulting and Scientific Authority for Blood Transfusion," he added.

Bashir said that the World Health Organisation has chosen Kuwait to be the headquarters for new centres on blood testing and Aids-related information.

The head of the social committee stressed the importance of having the right information on Aids cases especially in Arab countries which seem to conceal these numbers.

Asked about the number of Aids cases in Kuwait, Dr Al Momen said that according to a

statement by the Minister of Public Health made at a conference last December, 38 cases have been identified.

Dr Momen also said that Kuwait will announce its new law on Aids soon. "The law is being prepared by a panel of legal and medical specialists and in close consultation with the World Health Organisation."

The conference is organised and funded by the National Committee for Aids Prevention, the Ministry of Public Health, the World Health Organisation, Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences and Kuwait University.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amir receives

KUWAIT, Jan 24, (Kuna): His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah received at his residence in Dasmun visiting Tunisian Foreign Minister Abdul Hamid Al Cheikh.

Cheikh handed the Amir a message from Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali in the presence of State Minister for Foreign Affairs Saoud Al Oaimi and the Tunisian Ambassador to Kuwait.

Aviation meet

CAIRO, Jan 24, (Kuna): Aviation culture Arah Organisation's Chairman Brigadier Ali Ziko said yesterday the organisation's second conference will be held in Kuwait in the period 3-6 February.

Ziko, speaking to Kuwait News Agency, added the conference to be sponsored by the Kuwaiti Minister of Finance Jassem Al Khorafi will address the challenges of aviation in the 90's.

He pointed out that delegates from the International Aviation and Transportation Association (IATA), the Arab Organisation and Arah Airlines as well as Arab space pioneers will be attending the conference.

Perfume exhibition

KUWAIT, Jan 24, (Kuna): International Kuwait Fair Company is expected to open its sixth Perfume and Cosmetics Exhibition on February 6th at the Mithraf Fair Grounds.

An official source in the company pointed out that 77 local, foreign and Arab companies, specialised in the manufacturing of and trade in perfumes and cosmetics will be participating for the sixth consecutive year.

The source affirmed that seven foreign specialised companies will be involved in the exhibition that is flooded with large applications from local and foreign companies, noting that 25 companies and agencies are still on the waiting list due to lack of space.

Nazer for Japan

TOKYO, Japan 24, (Kuna): Saudi Minister of Petroleum and Minerals and Acting Planning Minister Hisham Nazer will arrive here tomorrow on a seven-day visit for talks with Japanese officials on bilateral co-operation.

Historians received

KUWAIT, Jan 24, (Kuna): Information Minister Sheikh Mubarak Al Hamad Al Sabah today received Secretary General of Arab Historians Union Dr Mustafa Abdul Qader Al Najjar and Sheikhha Maymouna Al Sabah.

Merchants optimistic on re-export activity pickup

BUSINESSMEN believe, that the facilities recommended by the Joint Economic Committee report would reflect positively on the intra-regional re-export activities and individual purchase operations, a local daily said.

Auto-tires and spare parts are foremost in the commodities believed to come in high demand before being followed by timber and other commodities.

The high demand on these two commodities by neighbouring countries would be the reason for precipitating the facilities extension.

ded to businessmen at the airport, particularly amidst growing orders for these two commodities on the local markets by Iraqi dealers, the paper also said.

Peace

Economic observers believe that local dealers are capable of renewing contacts with the Iranian markets as soon as the proposed peace agreement between Iraq and Iran had been signed to "resume" commercial activity.

Observers also say that Iranian dealers have purchased large

quantities of textiles from the local market over the past few weeks, which is a strong indication that the Iranian market still found Kuwait a perfect place to secure its needs and purchase its necessary commodities.

Despite the rise of positive indicators and optimistic views, businessmen in Kuwait are planning to relocate their trade to Dubai, to take advantage of the facilities provided there and the free trade system in the Jebel Ali area which is believed to be the source of US\$5 billion in turnover annually.

Faculty of administrative sciences to be established

AS PER an Amiri Decree, the Faculty of Commerce, Economic and Political Sciences will be abolished and a Faculty of Administrative Sciences will be established, according to Dr Rasha Al Sabah, assistant rector of Kuwait University for society services and information.

The official said that the new faculty will commence operations as of the start of the academic year 1991/1992.

Elucidating, she said that the Political Sciences Department will be annexed to the new faculty for a limited period until the establishment of a Faculty of Human Sciences and the Faculty of Social Sciences which will also integrate the Faculty of Arts.

The human sciences faculty will have departments of Arabic, English, Philosophy, History and Psychology, while the Faculty of Social Sciences will have departments of Sociology, Social Service, Political Science and Information, she added.

Training

Authorities at the university are studying the feasibility of a project to introduce job training courses for recent graduates of Kuwait University to qualify them to be better equipped in their professional careers. These courses are optional and will be under the supervision of the graduates office of the university in co-operation with the society service centre.

The Amir will patronise the graduation ceremony of outstanding graduates of the university. The other graduates will have a collective festival at the Shuwaikh stadium at the Faculty of Arts.

Exhibition

Dr Rasha pointed out that Kuwait University will host the 3rd Book Exhibit of GCC states between 17 and 21/3/90. The exhibit is held every two years in one of the GCC states. The first was held at the UAE university in 1986, and second at King Saud University in Riyadh in 1988.

The book exhibition will be a chance for all Arab Gulf universities to display their books and publications. The society service centre of the university will also organise a regional conference on illiteracy eradication between 5 and 7/5/1990. She added that the university has set up a committee headed by her to prepare for the conference.



Bhutan envoy

The Governor of Jahra Sheikh Ali Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah received at his office yesterday the Bhutan Ambassador to Kuwait. Talks between the governor and the envoy concentrated on issues of mutual interest.

Crime file

Gunpoint rapist arrested

A MAN accused of trying to rape a woman at her residence by holding her up at gunpoint is being investigated by the public prosecution.

According to police sources, the accused called at the residence of the victim and after producing a pistol tried to rape her. However, the woman tricked the man into giving her the pistol and then screamed which brought her immediate neighbours to the scene who apprehended the accused.

DETECTIVES of the Criminal Investigation Department at Ahmadi Governorate arrested a Bangladeshi national identified as Abdul Salam A on charges of theft.

According to official sources, the defendant and two of his roommates Mohammed S. and Mohammed M notified Fintas Police Station that the lock of their room door was broken into and some money and valuable items were stolen.

However, diligent investigations led to the involvement of Abdul Salam who under interrogation confessed to having broken into the room and stolen an amount of KD460 and four watches.

The money was recovered, but the accused claimed that he had sent the four watches to his country.

THE Misdemeanour Court sentenced a man to two months in jail with hard labour to be followed by deportation on being convicted of trying to seduce a woman through the telephone.

The victim said that she had been continually propositioned by the accused on the phone to meet with him and she had pointedly told him to desist from calling. Finally, she informed her husband who with the co-operation of security forces set up an "ambush meeting". At the appointed time, the accused arrived, only to fall into the waiting arms of the police.

Prosper calls for stronger Afro-Arab co-operation

KUWAIT, Jan 24, (Kuna): Burkina Faso's Foreign Affairs Minister Prosper Vokouma yesterday called for stronger Afro-Arab co-operation which he said is beneficial to both sides.

Arriving here last night, he told Kuna at the airport his visit was in the framework of Afro-Arah meetings as he chairs the African side and Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad heads the Arab side.

Referring to last fall meeting in New York for the standing committee of the Afro-Arah conference, Vokouma said he and Sheikh Sabah agreed then to keep a close watch of political changes under way in Europe.

"We decided we should meet as to take into consideration all the interests," involved in those changes, he said.

He stressed that his country is seeking stronger ties with Kuwait. "We really mean to reinforce and strengthen our relations," he said.

He believed Afro-Arah co-operation is advantageous to both sides and should be buttressed.

He said he and Sheikh Sabah had agreed that in addition to the standing Afro-Arah committee "we should undertake every effort to organise regular institutionalised meetings of higher bodies as conferences of ministers and heads of state."

The talks between Sheikh Sabah and Vokouma reviewed accomplishments of the committee, which includes 24 members, and touched on ways to bolster Arab-African dialogue in various spheres.

Garba to visit Kuwait

UNITED NATIONS, Jan 24, (Reuter): The president of the General Assembly, Major-General Joseph Garba of Nigeria, will visit Kuwait from January 27 to 30, his spokesman said yesterday.

He has also been invited to visit a number of other countries but no details were announced.

Garba was Nigeria's UN representative until his recent appointment as minister of state in the office of the Nigerian president. To enable him to complete his year as assembly president, to which he was elected last September, he was also named special envoy to the United Nations.

Nigeria's new UN Representative, Ambassador Ibrahim Agboola Gambia, presented his credentials to secretary general Javier Perez de Cuellar Monday.

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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES
Thought for today

THE cruellest lies often are told in silence — Robert Louis Stevenson, Scottish writer (1850-1894).

Rebels more hostile at US

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, (UPI): Armed men ambushed a US security guard at the US consulate as he was walking home late one night recently, Western diplomatic sources say.

They said the attackers accused the guard of working for the CIA and tried to force him into a waiting car. When he resisted, they beat him up. Police said the men identified themselves as belonging to the Hezb-i-Islami of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, one of the most powerful and fundamentalist of the seven main Muslim resistance groups fighting the pro-Soviet government in the Afghanistan capital of Kabul.

Some Western journalists based in Pakistan say they have recently been threatened by the Hezb-i-Islami for publishing what they perceive as anti-mujahideen propaganda.

Stole

A little over a week ago, the sources said, armed intruders stole valuable equipment from the offices of the Voice of America and a Western-funded research group, the Writers Union of Free Afghanistan, in the border city of Peshawar. The thieves were not identified but police say they suspect fundamentalist Afghan rebels.

The incidents highlight the growing hostility toward the United States by hardline elements in the Afghan resistance.

The United States, along with some Middle East nations, provides arms to the rebels in their 11-year-old war against the communist government in Kabul.

Analysts say the rising tensions are the result of rebel frustration at their failure to make major advances since the Soviet withdrawal last year, differences over the composition of a future government in Kabul and a perceived weakening of American support for the mujahideen.

The United States temporarily cut back on arms supplies to the resistance last year. In addition, the Hezb-i-Islami, which once received the lion's share of US aid as the strongest and best organised of the resistance groups, now gets only a small percentage of the weapons.

Supports

Indications that the United States supports a return of former King Zahir Shah, who has lived in exile in Rome since his ouster in a 1973 coup, have also fuelled anti-US sentiments among fundamentalist rebel leaders, who believe the former monarch to be un-Islamic.

There have always been anti-US elements among the mujahideen, said one Western diplomatic source, but they recently have become more vocal.

Hekmatyar has also accused the United States of backing the rival Jamiat-i-Islami rebel groups in a bloody conflict with his supporters so as to isolate the Hezb-i-Islami.

Both sides have caused hundreds of casualties in Peshawar and the surrounding Northwest Frontier Province in the past few years and are increasingly being blamed by officials on disputes among the mujahideen and not, as previously, on Afghan government agents.

Law enforcement agencies say they will be unable to provide adequate security to Peshawar residents, including about 400 Americans and 2,000 other Western expatriates, if the internecine violence continues to spill over into Pakistan.

Venture

Few Western journalists venture into Afghanistan with the resistance following threats from fundamentalists, including Palestinians and other Arabs, hundreds of whom are now fighting with the rebels.

Hekmatyar last August ordered his supporters to detain any foreign journalists or doctors they found in Afghanistan, charging they are spying and trying to create differences among the rebels.

About 10,000 people chanting anti-US slogans attended a rally in Peshawar last month during which Hekmatyar accused the United States of seeking to establish a government of its own choice in Kabul.

"The United States must realise that Afghanistan is not Panama, just as we showed the Soviet Union that Afghanistan is not Czechoslovakia," Hekmatyar told the crowd.

"If Hekmatyar thinks he can force us to change our policies then he is mistaken," said a US official who asked not to be identified.

Israel courted

VIENNA, (Reuters): Reformist countries of the East bloc, eager to win more international status and economic assistance, are now rushing to court Israel.

Czechoslovakia had its first visit by an Israeli minister in over two decades this week, following Hungary's pioneering move last September to resume ties broken over the 1967 Israeli-Arab war.

Since that time, only Romania, whose maverick East bloc leader Nicolae Ceausescu was executed with his wife a month ago, has maintained normal diplomatic links with the Jewish state.

Hungary was the first Warsaw Pact state to formalise a new era of warmth since the Soviet Union led its allies in shunning Israel 23 years ago.

Poland said earlier this month it intended to establish diplomatic relations in February or March, and East Germany is considering a similar move.

Meetings

After meeting Czechoslovakia's Václav Havel, Israel's Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres said: "I understood from the president that in a very short time we will renew diplomatic relations, probably in a matter of two or three weeks."

But after the handshakes, some of the East European nations also see the prospect of vital economic aid.

Before putting the seal on renewed ties with Prague, Peres signed an economic co-operation pact covering energy, agriculture, telecommunications, computing, banking and tourism. Direct scheduled flights are to start this summer.

On resuming links with Hungary, Israel's Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said: "I think the Hungarians expect that the Israelis can be helpful with their economy and we are ready to help them."

Israel has predicted that bilateral trade with Hungary could increase to an annual \$100 million within three to four years from the 1988 figure of \$31.6 million.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1494 — Alfonso II succeeds to throne of Naples on death of Ferdinand I.
- 1544 — Sir Thomas Wyatt raises army in England to oppose Mary I's projected marriage.
- 1579 — Union of Utrecht is signed by Holland, Zealand, Utrecht, Gelderland, Friesland, Groningen and Overijssel, marking foundation of Dutch republic.
- 1802 — France's Napoleon Bonaparte becomes president of the Italian republic.
- 1831 — Polish Diet proclaims independence of Poland, dethrones Nicholas, and deposes the Romanovs.
- 1944 — Battle for Cassino begins in Italy in World War II.
- 1952 — Crisis arises between France and Germany over administration of the Saar.
- 1959 — Britain signs trade pact with East Germany.
- 1962 — African heads of state of Monrovia group (Liberia, Togo, Nigeria and Cameroon) issue charter for pan-African cooperation.
- 1975 — Sheikh Mujibur Rahman abolished parliamentary rule in Bangladesh and assumes absolute powers as president.
- 1983 — Japanese government lodges strong protest with Soviet Union over Soviet military buildup in Far East, including possible transfer of intermediate-range missiles from Europe to Siberia.
- 1986 — Voyager 2, sweeping to within 51,000 miles (81,000 kilometres) of Uranus, discovers a 10th ring, a 15th moon and a north pole that angles downward.
- 1989 — Cambodian Premier Hun Sen has rejected proposal for an international peacekeeping force in his country.



Policemen watch helplessly as a government-owned jeep, set ablaze by Muslim militants, burns down. (Rautar wirephoto)

Militants want secession or union with Pakistan

Fighting in the name of Islam

SRINAGAR, India, (AP): Firdous Ahmed whipped out a Kalashnikov rifle concealed under his long woolen caftan. Abdul Hamid, standing next to him, flashed a Colt .45 revolver.

"We are the warriors of Islam," Ahmed said as residents of the narrow lanes kept watch for Indian troops in this Kashmir city. About 50 people, mostly Muslim militants, have been killed since the army launched a crackdown Saturday.

War cries reverberated through the neighbourhood as unseen people chanted from inside their homes: "We are independent. God is great. Kill Indian dogs."

Srinagar is the heart of the separatist movement in Kashmir where militants such as Ahmed and Hamid want to cast off rule by predominantly Hindu India in favour of independence or union with their Islamic neighbour, Pakistan.

The city of a million people has been under round-the-clock curfew since Saturday, except for a few hours Tuesday, in an effort to halt escalating attacks by the militants. Government troops have been authorised to shoot curfew violators on sight.

Struggle

"This is our holy war," said Ahmed, 23, who gave up his college studies to join the guerrilla struggle. "There is no question of a truce. The battle has begun and will end with our victory."

Kashmir, once a princely state, was divided between India and Pakistan in 1947 when the two countries were partitioned upon becoming independent from Britain. Srinagar and the surrounding region became part of India's Jammu-Kashmir state, the only state in India with a Muslim majority.

Nationwide, Muslims are only 12 per cent of India's 880 million people. But they are 64 per cent of Jammu-Kashmir's population of 5 million.

"The movement for autonomy is nothing new in Kashmir, but we have to admit that today it appears it has come to a point of no return," said Sabir Hussain, a state information officer.

Ignoring the presence of an estimated 10,000 federal troops, Muslim snipers move across rooftops. On Monday, a paramilitary policeman, wounded by sniper fire, was stoned to death by a mob.

Before the latest flare-up, the militants had already imposed their strict interpretations of the Holy Quran, the holy book of the Islamic faith.

Restaurants and hotels stopped serving liquor in the Kashmir valley, which attracted 500,000 Indian and foreign tourists in 1988 before the violence reduced the number of visitors by a third.

Women were ordered to wear burkas, the all-enveloping head-to-toe veils. Discotheques and beauty parlours closed.

Against

"We have been told that all these things are against Islam and ordered to stop," said Yogi Raima, the Hindu manager of a hotel.

"The entire valley is under the process of observing strict Islamic codes," said a carpet dealer, one of the few Hindus left in the business in Srinagar.

"There is nothing we can do about it," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

A new organisation called the Allah Tigers, or

Tigers of God, last month issued threats against anyone who failed to follow Islamic codes.

Tiger leader Noor Khan, who has assumed the title of air marshal, led his guerrillas on a raid of hotel and restaurant bars, smashing liquor bottles, according to people who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Srinagar's 10 cinemas and hundreds of video libraries closed after receiving bomb threats. So did beauty parlours, which used to cater to honeymooning Indian brides.

Frightened storekeepers dumped loads of playing cards in garbage heaps next to their shops to show the militants they are no longer selling items that can be used for gambling.

Control

"It will be wrong to say the situation is out of control," said Jagmohan, who was appointed governor of Jammu-Kashmir state last week by the federal government.

"You ask if things may have gone beyond repair — maybe correct, maybe not correct — but try to understand that it is a handful of people. The rest do not want violence," said Jagmohan, a Hindu who uses only one name and has a reputation as a no-nonsense administrator.

Troops clash across Kashmir divide

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan, (Reuters): India and Pakistan have officially been at peace for nearly 18 years, but troops confront each other across a tangle of ceasefire lines in Kashmir almost daily.

Fighting erupted in as many as six places a day along the 1,400 km (870 mile) control line, but United Nations observers say there has been no upsurge since a Muslim revolt engulfed Indian-controlled Kashmir in the last few weeks.

The men serving with the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) also say they have seen no signs of Indian troop concentrations along the line, force chief Brigadier-General Jerry Enright said.

More than 40 people have died in the past few days as Muslims in Indian Kashmir have taken to the streets to battle security forces in protest against Indian rule.

War

India and Pakistan have twice gone to war over mountain Kashmir and politicians in Pakistani-controlled Azad Kashmir claim they have evidence that India is reinforcing its side of the ceasefire line.

"We have no evidence of troops movements," Enright said in an interview. "Rumours circulate from time to time but we cannot give them any credence."

There is plenty of evidence, though, that the number of firefights across the divide have increased dramatically in the past three years. In places the opposing armies are only 200 metres (yards) apart.

The UN counted 120 Indian violations in 1987, 240 in 1988 and 600 last year.

New Delhi has refused to allow the UN to investigate Pakistani violations since they signed a peace accord with Islamabad in 1972 but Enright said the trend was the same.

Waste

"I am not talking about a few bursts of machine-gun fire. Thousands of rounds can be fired at a time," he said.

"It is just a waste of ammunition," Enright, a 60-year-old Irish veteran of UN forces in the Congo, Cyprus and Lebanon, said 14 people died on the Pakistan side last year and 40 were injured. Many were farmers working in the fields.

UNMOGIP's writ does not extend to the Siachen glacier where Indian and Pakistani troops confront each other at heights of up to 20,000 ft (6,100 metres) near the border with China.

The two sides frequently trade artillery fire across the glacier, the world's highest battlefield, but both armies admit the often atrocious weather causes more casualties than the fighting.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training the Muslim gunmen who have brought normal life in India's Jammu and Kashmir state to a standstill and badly damaged its vital tourist industry.

Pakistan denies the charges but militant groups on both sides of the divide acknowledge that gunmen slip back and forth.

Accuses

Enright said it would be virtually impossible to seal the long control line that snakes across rough, mountain terrain.

"If you have a fairly longish border like this, there is no way to supervise it on a 24-hour basis unless you build an electric fence or a wall."

UNMOGIP, deployed in 1949 to monitor the ceasefire that ended the first Indo-Pakistan war over Kashmir, is the second longest serving UN military force after the observer group on the border between Israel and Syria.

Its 40 military observers stationed in posts on both sides of the line have been largely forgotten over the years, but Enright believes they remain a force for peace.

"I feel we have an important role here. We have a restraining influence because when we are out monitoring they stop firing," he said. "They start again when we leave, of course."

Letters to the editor

Give an outline

SIR: The National Front government of India headed by V.P. Singh is completing one and a half months but it could not project the ray of hope on any of the vital national issues.

Regarding the Punjab problem the situation is getting worse day by day. On one hand Mann of Akali Dal maintained that he is having full faith in the Indian constitution and appreciating Raja Sahab and urging him not to lose a single moment to release the killer of Gen Vaidya, release all the Sikhs in prison etc. and talk to his AISSF boys for proper settlement of the Punjab problem. On the other hand his boys (AISSF) are giving a call to all Sikhs in boycott all government functions to be held to celebrate Republic Day of India (January 26).

They also declared that they have no faith in the Indian constitution and as such fighting for independence. It is yet to be seen when Mann will take the oath as M.P.

Regarding the Kashmir problem five hard-core terrorists had been released from jail in lieu of Miss Rubiya's release. Miss Rubiya is the daughter of Mufli Saeed who is Home Minister of India.

The nature of the kidnapping was doubtful in the mind of Indian people and till now no satisfactory explanation has been given by the government.

Miss Rubiya is also being instructed not to speak to the press. The situation in JK is most alarming ever since it joined the Indian union.

Regarding the Bofors issue nothing has come out so far. The National Front had made such an issue of Bofors and virtually threw out a challenge saying that V.P. Singh with his entire government machinery should expose Bofors agents within 15 days and bring back the deposited money in foreign banks for installing hand pumps, tube wells etc. in India. It is certain now that V.P. Singh will keep mum till the assembly elections are over, which has been declared to be held on Feb 27, 1990 and Bofors issue will again dominate the election scene.

Amitabh Bachchan challenged V.P. Singh to prove his involvement, if he could, in the Bofors issue otherwise he should make an apology within 30 days.

Regarding the economic front Finance Minister Prof Dandekar had said that he could not do much to alter the huge deficit of Rs. 12,000 crore (\$7,500 million) which had been inherited from the previous government but on the other hand loans upto Rs. 10,000 (\$700) will be waived, widow and old age pension will be introduced, right to work rule will come into force, providing unemployment allowances etc.

Virtually all the ministers are busy in preparing the layout of various "sweet" plans saying that money will be no problem. It seems certain that the new budget which will be presented at the end of March (till that time N.F. or Congress governments will be formed in 8 states) 1990 will be having indirect or direct taxes over the people.

The fast changing world scenario brings with it a greater possibility of problems for countries, such as India, which are too big or proud to go under the wings of the new emerging order. The dawn of democracy in Eastern Europe, USSR's economic and political woes, have led once again to the emergence of the USA as the world's pre-eminent power as it was at the end of World War II. Americans will use this power and influence to establish an international order of their vision. In these contexts India must walk softly but carry a big stick. Mr P.M. please say something concrete and project some ray of hope.

Shyam Raj Upadhyay, Kuwait.

More buses

SIR: I'm one of the employees of KOC — Wafra. My problem is that it's hard for me to commute especially if I'm going to and from Kuwait City. We always packed like sardines inside the bus. After a trip it will take a long time to wait again for the next bus.

The bus on my route is No. 206 and I think only four buses are assigned on the route. May I request, on behalf of all the contract workers assigned here, additional buses on Wafra route?

Serafin Macatangay, Wafra.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Quote me

"To cope with the large numbers, the government-general of Iran's east Azerbaijan province) has ordered housing arrangements for them. A group of visitors were housed in mosques, while others took up lodging with their relatives." Iran on some 5,000 Soviet Azerbaijanis who crossed the border for Friday prayer in Iran.

"Some 5,000 Soviet Azeris had crossed into Iran to take part in the Friday prayers. Many have returned back with gifts including copies of the Holy Quran (the Islamic holy book) and pictures of Imam Khomeini."

"The United States government deprecates the actions taken by the government of Haiti on Jan 20, 1990. While we regret the recent instances of violence in Haiti, we believe the recent actions taken by the government of Haiti are not appropriate response." — US government on repression of violent civil strife by the Haitian government.

"It took 12 turbulent years for the long arm of the law to lasso outlaw John McEnroe." — The Sydney Daily Mirror's Tim Prentice on McEnroe's default for abusive behaviour.

"There are two Lloyd Honeyghans. He proved he is a great fighter when he took the title off Don Curry in 1986. But when he fought Johnny Bumphus at Wembley in 1987 it was a different Honeyghans. It was cowardly and unsportsmanlike the way he hit Johnny while he was still on his stool." — Mark Breland's manager Joe Furiello.

"We are coming here with the WBA welterweight title, and on March 3 we are going back to the United States with the WBA title." Mark Breland's manager on the upcoming bout between his ward and Britain's Lloyd Honeyghans.

"Security officers do not get a second chance from the IRA, and it must be considered a reasonable action on the part of security forces when confronting those who present themselves as armed to safeguard lives by shooting them." Peter Robinson, deputy leader of the Rev. Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party defending forces who shot 3 unarmed youths to death.

Winnie back in 'black' community

SOWETO, South Africa, (Reuters): Winnie Mandela, spurned by the anti-apartheid movement after a dramatic fall from grace, appears to have achieved a painstaking reconciliation with the people who once heralded her as mother of the nation.

The wife of jailed nationalist Nelson Mandela and herself a symbol of black resistance, Winnie was shunned after a series of political gaffes and allegations that members of her staff were involved in the murder of a young black activist.

But recently thousands of political activists packed a stadium to hear her speak at a welcoming rally for leading black dissidents, released after more than two decades in jail for plotting to topple white rule.

When a bus-load of demonstrators protesting at the arrival of English rebel cricketers was stopped by a police roadblock at Johannesburg's Jan Smuts airport, Winnie led a delegation of activists to negotiate their release.

Liability

"Winnie Mandela had become a liability that the (anti-apartheid) Mass Democratic Movement cannot afford. But now she is slow being rehabilitated and co-opted into the masses," an official of the heavily-restricted United Democratic Front (UDF), who did not want to be named, told Reuters.

The price for reconciliation appears to be an understanding that she makes no statements without the collective backing of the UDF, South Africa's largest anti-apartheid organisation — an

undertaking which she has so far observed.

Her return to the anti-apartheid fold was supported by the outlawed African National Congress (ANC), which her husband led before he was jailed for life for sabotage.

"Since she has been actively involved in activities marking the release of her husband's colleagues, it became clear that reconciliation was close," the official said.

The ANC urged the dissident groups inside South Africa, which had vowed not to have anything more to do with her, to accept Winnie back for counselling while at the same time asking her to watch her words and actions.

Political

Winnie's political life came under a cloud in 1986 when she appeared to condone "necklacing," a method of murder used by radical blacks in which a petrol-soaked tyre is placed around the victim's neck and set alight.

She built a 15-room double storey mansion in Soweto, provoking fierce criticism for building a palace in the midst of poverty. She never moved in. Citing the need for protection, she founded the Mandela United Football Club, a group of 30 tough youths who acted as her body guards. They were accused of commandeering cars, making threats and roughing up anyone who crossed them.

The saga became a full blown scandal when the hunk of a woman shared with Nelson Mandela was damaged in an arson attack in 1988 after a dispute between the bodyguards and a group of

black students from a nearby high school.

But it was the alleged abduction of four and the subsequent murder of one that led to her downfall.

Sources close to her bodyguards said the episode began with a fight over church shelter, which members of the football team apparently wanted to use as a hide-out for outlawed ANC guerrillas.

Objected:

Four youths who objected to the move were abducted by team members and assaulted. One escaped and two were eventually released after appeals by church leaders. The other, 14-year-old Stompie Seipei, was later found dead.

Nelson Mandela reportedly ordered the dissolution of the club. Police arrested nine of the bodyguards and their trial starts on February 12.

Although Winnie is not a defendant, political analysts say she may be called to testify since the assaults were alleged to have occurred at her home.

Outraged by the bodyguards' reign of terror, anti-apartheid organisations asked the black community to shun her.

Winnie consistently denied any wrongdoing.

For months she was isolated, until the ANC intervened and now the old cries of "viva mother of the nation viva" are ringing out again at political rallies.

"When we say we are prepared to talk, we mean negotiating the handing over of power from the hands of the minority regime to the people of South Africa — both black and white," she said at a recent news conference.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Investors searching for new set of rules

World stocks dive again as economic woes mount

LONDON, Jan 24, (Reuters): World stock and bond markets plunged today as investors from Tokyo to Wall Street took fright at speculation about political instability in the Soviet Union and volatile interest rates in the West.

Unnerved by the military and political crises boiling up around President Mikhail Gorbachev, investors have pushed major equity markets down as much as nine per cent from records set in an already long forgotten euphoric start to 1990.

Political fears about Eastern Europe have been compounded by jitters over Japanese elections next month and growing pessimism over

chances for cheaper world interest rates as traders watch wage settlements in Western Europe rise and bond price tumble.

Economists believe markets, chasing each other's trends from one continent to the next, overreacted at the start of the year by hitting new peaks on the prospects of fresh business opportunities in the East bloc.

And now, to use the jargon of international monetary affairs, markets have "overshot on the downside."

"The animal spirits of entrepreneurs got carried away... now we are seeing a correction," said Jim Rollo, economist at the Royal Institute of Inter-

national Affairs in London.

In what appeared to be an attempt to calm markets, US President George Bush said today the United States remained the best place for investment despite signs of weakness in the economy and attractive interest rates abroad.

He told a White House news conference he hoped the Soviet leader would be able to survive the political crisis created by ethnic conflict in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

In Moscow, Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov rejected suggestions Gorbachev could be in danger and said there was no alter-

native to the Kremlin leader and his reform policies.

Economists believe the political upheavals of 1989 have set investors searching for a new set of rules, adding to the turbulence that has characterised the start of the decade.

"We grew up in a world where the rich man had a Swiss bank account, the clever investor was in Japanese equities and the nervous trader went into gold at the time of political turmoil," said Michael Hughes, head of economics and strategy at brokers Barclays de Zoete Wedd Securities in London.

Gold rose to a 13-month high of

more than \$420 an ounce during trading in London today although the metal has shown little reaction in recent weeks to East bloc events.

The flood out of the Japanese equity market has raised the question whether the patterns of global investment are about to undergo a fundamental change.

Overnight in Asia, markets in Tokyo, Singapore and Hong Kong all showed losses, with Japan's 225-share Nikkei Average crashing through the 37,000 barrier and dropping 1.6 per cent.

The Japanese stock market has

retreated 5.5 per cent from its all-time high reached on December 29 last year.

In Europe, the mood was no brighter as London and Frankfurt led a host of smaller stock exchanges down. London's FTSE index of 100 shares is now trading 8.3 per cent down on its January 3 record, while the Faz index in Frankfurt has shed 5.7 per cent from its peak of 776.71 scaled on January 12.

Wall Street picked up the trend as New York began trading today and the Dow Jones industrial average slumped about 60 points to take it some nine per cent below its January 2

peak.

The mid-week gloom was triggered by news after Wall Street's close yesterday of weak bidding in the US bond market for a \$5 billion offering of bonds to finance the government's bail-out of the US savings and loans industry.

The rout in world bond markets has sent average yields on public authority paper in West Germany to 8.04 per cent from 7.80 at the beginning of the year. In Britain the yield on the Treasury's benchmark 11.34 per cent "gilt" due in July 2003 has risen to nearly 11 per cent from 10.1 at the start of the year.

Dollar down Tokyo stocks plunge

TOKYO, Jan 24, (UPI): The US dollar fell against the Japanese yen in Tokyo today, closing at 145.80 yen, down 0.53 yen from Tuesday's close.

After opening lower at 145.88 yen, the dollar changed hands between 145.65 yen and 146.06 yen, compared with Tuesday's range of 146.20-146.68 yen.

Dealers said that institutional investors, such as life insurance firms and trading companies, sold the dollar against the yen and the other currencies in anticipation of interest hikes in the Western European countries.

Traders said that market participants retreated from their dollar positions as they had overbought the dollar since the beginning of the New Year.

The central trading rate fell to 146.00 yen from 146.30 yen Tuesday.

UASC signs contract with Korean firm

KUWAIT, Jan 24, (Kuna): Kuwait-based United Arab Shipping Company (UASC) today signed a contract with the South Korean Hyundai Company for building 5,800 containers.

UASC public relations head Abdul Rahman Al Hmoud said in a statement.

The \$15.5 million contract was signed by UASC deputy board chairman Ibrahim Makki and Hyundai's Kuwait branch head Wun Shu, he said.

The Korean firm is due to deliver the containers in the first half of 1990.

The contract is intended to help the UASC to do away with leased containers and expand its services.

US oil dependence on Gulf to increase

Heating oil prices dip

WASHINGTON, Jan 24, (AP): CIA director William Webster yesterday told Congress that US dependence on Gulf oil will more than double in the coming years, a projection that private analysts called a little too pessimistic.

"Western dependence on Gulf oil will rise dramatically" in the next few years, Webster said in brief remarks on oil imports during testimony before the Senate Armed Forces Committee. He spoke mainly about military and political issues.

Webster said his agency expected US dependence on Gulf oil to rise from 10 per cent of total US supplies last year to "roughly 25 per cent" in a few years. The intelligence chief's projection did not include a specific date.

John Liebitblau, executive director of the Petroleum Industry Research Foundation in New York, said in an interview that Webster's forecast was reasonable if he was projecting to 1995. He said "it's a little bit exag-

gerated" if Webster meant the rise to 25 per cent would occur in two or three years.

Lichtblau said his organization was projecting that Gulf oil would account for between 22 and 23 per cent of US supplies by 1995. He and other analysts tie the increase to growing US oil consumption, continuing declines in US oil production and slumping exports by non-Gulf oil exporters such as Britain.

Total US oil imports last year rose to 7.9 million barrels a day. That was a 10-year high and meant 46 per cent of US oil supplies came from foreign sources, according to the American Petroleum Institute, an industry trade association.

Dillard Spriggs, president of the consulting firm Petroleum Analysis Ltd. in New York, said "in five years" time it's quite likely "that the United States will be getting one-quarter of its oil from the Gulf, but not before then."

"That's where it's got to come

from," he said, since no major new oil fields are scheduled to come into production outside the Gulf in the next few years.

The energy department's forecasting office does not publish projections of US dependence on oil from specific regions of the world, said W. Calvin Kilgore, who directs the office. Kilgore nonetheless said he foresees "at least a doubling" of US reliance on the Gulf over the next five years.

Meanwhile with continuing unseasonably warm weather sharply reducing demand, US heating oil prices fell yesterday to their lowest level in nine weeks, dragging crude prices down with them.

Home heating oil for February delivery dropped 1.71 cents to 59.28 cents a gallon on the New York Mercantile Exchange, the lowest closing price since Nov 17 and the first settlement price below 60 cents a gallon since Nov 21.

KD deposit rates display firmer tone

KUWAIT, Jan 24, (Reuters): Kuwaiti dinar interbank deposit rates displayed a firmer tone today amid tight liquidity and perceptions rates would not ease in the near future.

Dealers said a newspaper report yesterday quoting the head of the Kuwait Central Bank as saying the bank would not intervene to push dinar rates down put upward pressure on the already firm market.

A 125 million dinar issue of three and six-month government treasury bills also helped keep liquidity tight.

Overnight, tomorrow-next and spot-next all firmed to 8-9/16, 3/8 per cent from 8-1/2, 1/4 in the morning.

One-week to one-year also firmed to 8-9/16, 5/16 per cent. The Central Bank adjusted its dinar exchange rate firmer to 0.29146/56 to the dollar from 0.29200/10 on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Saudi riyal interbank deposits displayed a firmer tone today as operators placed riyals in the short-dates ahead of a 1.5 billion riyal government bond issue next week.

The spot riyal firmed to 3.7496/500 to the dollar from quotes of 3.7504/07 on Tuesday.

Agreement signed

Seoul to buy more oil from Riyadh

SEOUL, South Korea, Jan 24, (AP): South Korea has agreed to increase crude oil imports from Saudi Arabia to 30 per cent of its annual consumption, officials said today.

Officials said the agreement was reached in talks between Saudi Arabian Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Hisham M. Nazer and South Korean Energy-Resources Minister Lee Bong-Suh yesterday.

Nazer came to Seoul on Monday for a four-day visit aimed at boosting sales of Saudi crude and attracting South Korean investment in joint venture petrochemical projects in his country.

South Korea currently buys about 55 per cent of its daily oil requirements, estimated at 720,000 barrels, from the spot market and the remaining 45 per cent under long-term contracts with about a dozen oil-producing countries.

Saudi Arabia's share of the South Korean market was 5 per cent, or 36,000 barrels a day, which Seoul will increase to 30 per cent, or 216,000 barrels a day, the officials said.

The South Korean promise would affect imports from Oman, Iran and other Middle



Saudi Arabian Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Hisham Nazer (left) is met by South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo at the presidential mansion of Blue House. Nazer is visiting Seoul to promote South Korean imports of Saudi oil.

East countries, they said.

South Korea imported 262 million barrels of crude oil from Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Brunei and China last year.

South Korea's crude oil consumption increases about 10 per cent a year.

In another development more than three million tonnes of oil pours into the world's oceans each year from tanker accidents and other discharges, a pollution expert said today.

Fraud charges

Judge orders funds back to US from Israel

NEWARK, New Jersey, Jan 24, (AP): A federal judge has told Eddie Antar, whose Crazy Eddie Inc. electronics chain collapsed amid fraud charges, to bring \$52 million back to US shores.

The Securities and Exchange Commission alleges the sum is part of more than \$60 million Antar gained by selling Crazy Eddie stock at prices falsely inflated by illegal bookkeeping.

US district judge Nicholas H. Politan said yesterday that Antar "was at the head of a scheme" to overstate the company's income from 1985 to 1987, and benefitted from a higher stock price in selling his shares.

The judge stressed that his finding was limited only to a motion filed by the SEC in its insider-trading lawsuit against Antar and violating securities laws, which Politan granted.

He also granted the government's request to require Antar to repatriate \$2 million that he

allegedly had transferred in 1987 to bank accounts in Israel. The money is to be placed under the supervision of a trustee. The government has said Antar transferred as much as \$68 million overseas.

The SEC wants the money on hand in case it wins an insider-trading case and a restitution order against Antar.

Antar, who was raised in the New York Borough of Brooklyn, built his single store there into a 43-outlet chain known through the New York area for its loud-mouthed television advertisements touting "insane prices."

The SEC accused him and other former top management of insider trading and doctoring the company's books. The company went into involuntary bankruptcy in October.

Antar and former officials also face a shareholder's lawsuit in federal court in Brooklyn, and a criminal investigation by the US attorney.

Despite world slump Turkish stocks soar

ISTANBUL, Jan 24, (Reuters): Turkish stocks bucked the global trend today, rising sharply despite a fake share scandal and a bomb attack on the Istanbul Exchange.

The exchange index, now in its fifth bullish week, soared to 3,823.58, up 53 points or 1.4 per cent from Tuesday's close.

Dealers said the market was confident of further foreign investment despite sharp drops on bourses from Tokyo to Wall Street.

Hundreds of people jammed the alleys outside the building to watch electronic displays. Only dealers were allowed inside for security reasons after a man was killed at the entrance late on Tuesday by a bomb he was trying to plant in the exchange.

No group has claimed responsibility for the bombing, which police said could have been politically motivated.

Police announced they had arrested a man suspected of printing and selling fake share certificates of the Cukurova Elektrik firm in a scheme in which thousands of investors may have burned their fingers.

They identified him as Mevlut Yalcinbag, 52, a hotel manager in the southeastern town of Gaziantep.

The firm's shares, among the most actively traded on the exchange, gained five per cent today after 10 per cent rises on Monday and Tuesday.

Dealers fear more than 100 billion lira (\$43 million) in fake Cukurova shares could be on the market.

"Prices are going up like crazy. Bomb attacks, fake share scandals... nobody seems to care," said Naci Erakman, in the crowd outside the exchange.

Shares worth 55 billion lira (\$23 million) changed hands today, compared with an average daily volume of some 200 million lira (\$85,000) a year ago.

\$560m loan for ALBA

GULF Investment Corporation, Arab Banking Corporation, Arab Bank Limited, Bank of Tokyo, Banque Paribas, Industrial Bank of Japan, Mitsubishi Bank, National Commercial Bank, Riyadh bank, Sumitomo Bank and Manufacturers Hanover were awarded the mandate for the \$560 million loan to Aluminium Bahrain (ALBA), supported by the government of Bahrain.

The loan is for 10 years with a grace period of 4 years and an availability period of 3.5 years. The loan will finance part of ALBA's major expansion project which comprises the construction of a fourth potline and a new power plant with a total cost of about \$1.4 billion.

In addition to the \$560 million loan, there will be export credits from different countries of about \$475 million which will be offered to the banks participating in the \$560 million loan.

For further information please contact Fouad J. Masrieh at Gulf Investment Corporation, telephone (965) 2431911, telex (496) 44002/23146 GICORP KT, telefax (965) 2448894/2408006.

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US budget deficit widens

WASHINGTON, Jan 24, (AP): The federal budget deficit increased \$14.64 billion in December, meaning the deficit so far this fiscal year already has reached more than two-thirds permitted for the entire year, the Treasury Department said today.

Combined with the \$55.05 billion October-November deficit, the imbalance at the end of December totalled \$69.69 billion, compared to a \$67.58 billion for the same period of fiscal 1989.

This means that although the government has a lower deficit ceiling this year, it has spent 3.1 per cent more than it did during the first three months of fiscal 1989.

The Gramm-Rudman deficit reduction law sets a \$100 billion ceiling for the fiscal year that began Oct 1. The 1989 deficit totalled \$152.1 billion.

However, the December imbalance was 49.4 per cent lower than November's \$28.96 billion and 43.9 per cent smaller than October's \$26.09 billion.

President George Bush is scheduled to send to Congress on Monday his budget for fiscal 1991 that starts next Oct 1. Sources said he will propose spending \$1.23 trillion that will meet the Gramm-Rudman goal of a \$64 billion deficit that year.

Revenue last month totalled \$13 billion, 4.9 per cent less than received in the same month of fiscal 1989. Spending fell 1.3 per cent to \$103.77 billion. The deficit is the difference between revenue and spending.

Currency rates

U.S. dollar (Jan 24, 1990) Following are the international currency rates as quoted by local banks and converted to the Central Bank of Kuwait today.		
	Buying	Selling
Saudi riyal	0.29121	0.29236
Qatari riyal	0.29121	0.29236
Yemeni riyal	0.29121	0.29236
Libyan dinar	0.00023075	0.00023184
Lebanese pound	0.0019377	0.0019416
Israeli sheqel	0.00023075	0.00023184
Japanese yen	0.0019377	0.0019416
South African rand	0.0019377	0.0019416
U.S. dollar	0.0019377	0.0019416
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REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA

AN ARAB TIMES SUPPLEMENT

INDO-ARAB RELATIONS

Growing friendship

By G. Srinivasan

INDIA and the Arab countries have been enjoying friction-free and friendly relations for several decades. India has always been a staunch supporter of the Palestine cause and Arab rights and it left no stone unturned in bringing into focus the basic rights for Palestinians in their just cause. India was one of the first countries to recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). India's economic relations with Arab countries had been growing over the years. A large number of Indian experts and skilled labour have been working in Arab countries and assisting in their development efforts. Following the oil boom in West Asian countries in the early 1970s, India's contribution to Arab countries' development in terms of supply of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled manpower was too important to be ignored. However, in the 1980s there were some setbacks in the economic relations between India and Arab countries as the latter had drastically pruned investment in new projects owing to decline in oil prices and the consequent setback to surplus these countries used to enjoy. The boom in construction and development projects in Arab countries was also on the wane.

Scope

Realising the potential for promoting economic relations between India and Arab countries, an Indo-Arab chamber of commerce had been mooted recently to provide a focal point for Indian and Arab businessmen to diversify the trade and investment opportunities in each other's country. The proposed chamber which is to be based in India, will have a balanced structure having representation from both India and Arab business. It is proposed that the chamber will have an Indian president and the chief executives will be from the Arab side.

The chairman of the Indo-

Arab Joint Business Council, K.K. Modi said recently that the emerging scenario after the Iran-Iraq war provided Indian businessmen opportunities for tapping the Arab market and also setting up joint ventures. Undoubtedly, it was a recognised fact that in view of the growing strong relations between India and all Arab countries, the scope for economic co-operation is an ongoing process that needs to be constantly kept in view. In order to bring this into fruition what needs to be done is better promotion, creation of more knowledge and of confidence in India's capabilities ensuring quality control, efficiency in delivery of goods on time schedule and also completion of projects in time, facilities for shipping, proper packaging and attractive cataloguing particularly in Arab.

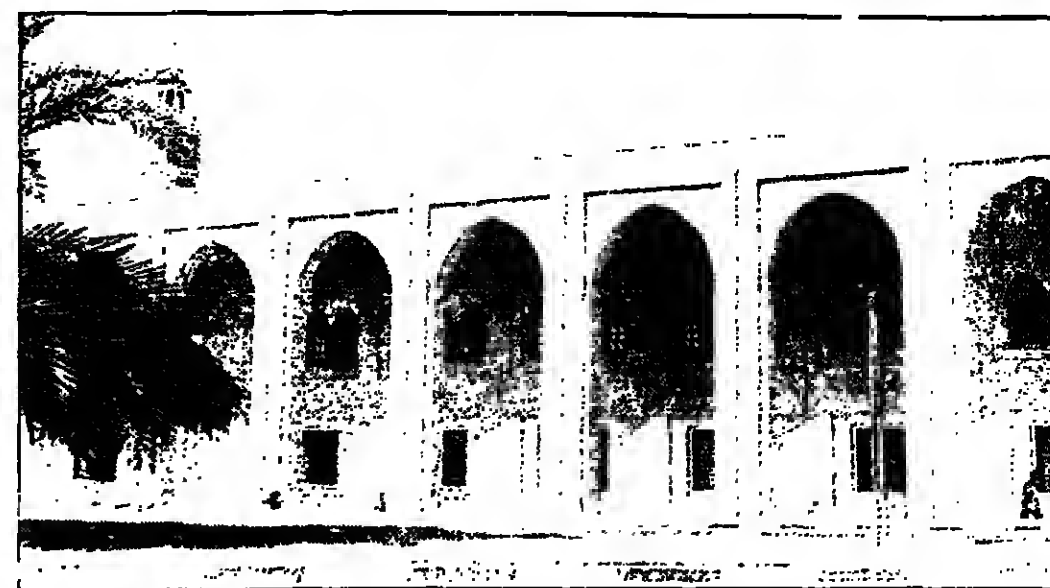
The joint venture deal finalised in October 1988 in Dubai which might be the forerunner to a long-term programme of establishing energy-intensive projects abroad for a captive Indian market. The famed Jafza Free Zone (JAFZ) is to be the site of a plant worth roughly RS85 million (\$4.8 million) to manufacture 500 tonnes of phosphoric acid plus that of sulphuric acid at 1400 tonnes a day is to be brought by India for 10 years from the time the plant goes into production, now scheduled for 1991. Gujarat Marmada Valley Fertiliser Corporation (GNVFC) will hold 20 per cent equity in the project and the Government of the Emirate of Dubai would likely to approve its own 20 per cent holding in the venture, registered in the UK as Emirates Marmada Industries (EMI).

Trade
On the trade front, Saudi Arabia remains one of India's six major trading partners in the region, followed by the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain, Yemen, Oman, and

Qatar in the Gulf region. The main items of India export to these countries include rice, textile, yarn, vegetable and fruit, fish, manufactures of metals, machinery and transport equipment, iron and steel and spices, garments and clothing, accessories, jute manufacturing, tea and coffee, tobacco, rubber, mutton, pearls and semi-precious stones, chemicals and related products. As for India's imports go, petroleum and crude oil remain the largest in value and in quantity though India's rapid self-reliance in crude oil production has of late minimised its dependence on the oil front.

Besides trade, there are already a score of joint ventures in different Arab countries. The largest number are in UAE comprising such ventures as aluminium and architectural products, cylinders, sulphuric acid, civil and mechanical engineering construction and trading, manufacturing of ice-cream machines, container and steel drum plants, water well drilling and other related activities.

All told, India and the Arab countries have been emerging as partners in progress. At a time when the North-South dialogue between rich and poor countries is at a stalemate, the growing trade relations on a robust scale between India and Arab countries reflect not only a right step in South-South trade but also testimony to the historic ties that bind these countries. India's stance of non-alignment and its consistent support to the Arab cause in general and the Palestine Liberation Organisation in particular had conclusively demonstrated to the world that attitudes of mind stem not only from economic and commercial considerations but also because of cultural and historical factors.



India has contributed to the development of Kuwait and other Gulf countries.

PETROLEUM

Hundred Years of Oil

THE Department of Posts brought out a special postage stamp in single colour on December 29, 1989 in the denomination of sixty paise on "A Hundred Years of Oil".

The Indian petroleum industry completed hundred years in 1989 because oil in commercial quantities was discovered in Digboi, Assam, in 1889.

Drilling was started Digboi well No 1 in September 1889. The first gush of oil was struck a month later at 178 feet and in November 1890 the well was completed to a depth of 662 feet as an oil producer. A total of a thousand wells were drilled in Digboi. The oilfield, being operated by Oil India Limited, is still producing, making it perhaps the only continuously producing oilfield of this vintage in the world.

Oil in the Digboi oilfield is in very shallow zones. Digboi oilfield is quite interesting. An elephant working for the Assam Railways and Trading Company used to go through the jungles carrying logs. One day when the elephant returned to the camp, oil was noticed on its feet. His masters retraced the elephant's steps into the forest and found huddles of oil seeping from the ground. "Dig, boy, dig!" exclaimed the Englishman to his workers in his excitement on seeing the oil. Thus the name Digboi found a place in the petroleum history of India.

The petroleum industry has come a long way in these 100 years. Today, it is hardly any sector of the economy which is not directly or indirectly affected by the availability and prices of petroleum products. The crucial role of this industry in the economic life of the nation has led to a step up of activities in the petroleum sector in recent times. The country presently produces about 32 million tonnes of oil and 12,700 million cubic metres of natural gas per year. Together with imported crude the country's 12 operating refineries process about 50 million tonnes of crude oil per year. Additional capacity of about 12 million tonnes per year will be added when the refineries at Karnal, Mangalore and Assam are completed shortly.

The oil sector provides for about 50 per cent of the commercial energy needs of the country. With the same spirit of pioneering that discovered Digboi oilfield a hundred years ago, exploration efforts are being intensified, production of oil and gas being accelerated and a general improvement is being brought about to energy management systems.

In the 100th year of the Petroleum industry which coincides with the birth centenary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the oil sector is poised to execute the vision of Panditji in making India a progressive and developed nation of the world.

President's Message

Indian President R. Venkateshwar Rao has given a traditional greeting. The President will give a message to the Indian nation on the eve of the 41st Republic Day of India. The presidential address is customary.



A new era

Prime Minister V.P. Singh led a crusade against corruption and galvanised people to fight against wrongdoings. Indians gave him a mandate in the elections held in November last year, and he became the premier with promises of an honest government. He ushered in a new era with an open government and started to tackle problems in earnest after taking office.

Singh, the mild-mannered poet and painter who engineered the fall of the modern world's oldest political dynasty, was born to be king. Instead, he is India's prime minister, leading

the country's first minority government under the banner of the National Front.

Singh, the erstwhile king of the tiny northern region of Manda, is now ruling a much larger kingdom — a country of 880 million people. The 58-year-old prime minister has played a part in Indian politics since the early 1970s, but image has never been important for him. "I have always taken the stand that we have to shift from personal appeal to issues. That is the way democracy matures," he said. After Singh entered politics, he became a loyal member of the Congress Party, hand-

picked and groomed for public service by Indira Gandhi. In 1984, he became the finance minister, initiating sweeping economic reforms, allowing foreign investments and overseeing an awakening of a stagnating economy that is growing about 5 per cent a year.

In the 41st year of independence, Singh has promised to clean up the government and weed out corruption even as he tackles the tough challenge of quelling separatist violence in the states of Punjab and Kashmir.

MESSAGE

A proud tradition continues

Message of the Ambassador of India on the occasion of the 41st Republic Day of India — January 26th, 1990

IT gives me great pleasure to greet fellow Indians on the auspicious occasion of the Republic Day of India.

On January 26, 1990, India completes 40 years as a Republic. This is an occasion for celebration and rejoicing. It was on this day in 1950 that the people of India gave themselves a democratic and secular Constitution which sought to secure Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity for its citizens. The fundamental rights of all Indian citizens are guaranteed in the Constitution, irrespective of caste, race or religion.

During the last 40 years, nine General Elections have been held in India; the last one was in November, 1989. India is the largest democracy in the world and we can be truly proud of our record of having changed governments through peaceful means by utilising the ballot.

The past year has been a year of achievements in different aspects of the life of our country. There has been considerable progress made in economic and social development and our economy has registered good growth. There have been several accomplishments in the fields of science, technology and culture.

We have continued to follow the policy of non-alignment which seeks to build bridges of friendship with all nations of the world. Our principled foreign

policy is based on national consensus. The new government has announced that it will seek to further improve relations with our neighbours. The Government has also announced that India will continue to extend support to the Palestinian cause and to the ending of apartheid in South Africa.

Relations between Kuwait and India have been strong and friendly over the past several centuries. Recently, we have signed an agreement with Kuwait for a cultural exchange programme and I hope that this will be implemented successfully so as to enhance the understanding between the two peoples in the fields of culture, arts and education. Similarly, I look forward to a further strengthening of the existing relationship in other areas.



Indian Ambassador Arun Kumar Budhiraja

political, economic, commercial, tourism, etc. I am confident that the very friendly relations which exist between the Indian community in Kuwait and the people of Kuwait will continue to flourish in the future also.

JAI HIND

Kuwait-India

1990

Decades may roll, but for Kuwait India Intl. Exchange it only means growth and re-dedication to the ever increasing demands of thousands of NRIs in Kuwait.

Since 1979, we are known for:

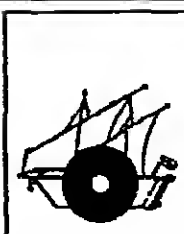
- Security
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- Speed • Expertise
- Convenience
- Customer Satisfaction

OVER A DECADE OF DEDICATED SERVICE IN THE BUSINESS OF REMITTANCE OF YOUR MONEY

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DISARMAMENT

Striving for a nuclear-free world

By R.C. Rajamani

PEACE and disarmament are part of India's ethos from ancient times. Lord Buddha and later, Emperor Ashoka were two of the most glowing examples, personifying India's stand for a world without violence and a world without war, a world without hatred. The tradition was continued down the ages and a landmark was reached when Mahatma Gandhi won freedom for India in a largely non-violent struggle which has few parallels in the annals of the world.

Independent India has since carried on with its war against all wars and has consistently taken up arms against arms, so to say.

In its foreign policy, India has accorded the highest priority to peace, disarmament and development. The unfortunate and ominous advent of nuclear weapons made a qualitative difference to the international security environment. India has consistently highlighted the catastrophic features of these weapons and has voiced its concern over the perils nuclear arsenals cause to humanity. India's stand has been that the highest priority in disarmament must be accorded to the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Right from independence, India has taken a number of initiatives on the issue at the United Nations and other international forums. As early as in 1948, India proposed limiting the

use of atomic energy to peaceful purposes only and the elimination of atomic weapons from national arsenals.

Threat

Two years later, India drew the attention of the United Nations to the existence of large stocks of armaments and their unchecked growth, which, it pointed out, besides being a threat to international peace and security, led to the diversion of human and economic resources. India argued that the resources needed to be made available for raising the standards of living in the developing world and recommended the creation of a United Nations Peace Fund through a progressive reduction of armaments worldwide and channelling the savings into the fund.

In 1954, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru made his historic appeal for a "stand-still agreement," whereby all testing of nuclear weapons would be immediately suspended pending an agreement on their complete prohibition.

In 1956, India presented a memorandum to the Disarmament Commission suggesting certain initial steps for suspension of arms production. These included cessation of experimental nuclear explosions, dismantling of at least some nuclear weapons as a measure to reverse the arms race, declaration by nations not to manufacture any more nuclear weapons and prohibition of export or transfer of

nuclear weapons to other countries by nuclear weapons states.

In 1959, India proposed inclusion of an item on the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly for "suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests."

A year later, India along with 11 other nations submitted a resolution (adopted unanimously) in the General Assembly, which contained directive principles that could form the basis of an agreement on general and complete disarmament. It was a matter of justifiable pride and satisfaction for India that the Joint Statement of Agreed Principles issued by the US and USSR in 1961 conformed to a large extent to the formulation submitted in that draft introduced by India.

Initiative

The cause of disarmament was espoused not just by the government but by individual citizens of eminence and public organisations. The elder statesman, C. Rajagopalachari, at the age of 82, in the early 1960s, undertook a visit to the USA — his only trip abroad — to confer with President John F. Kennedy on the subject of disarmament. The young Kennedy was all ears as the venerable Rajaji held forth on the urgent need for a nuclear-free world.

India took the initiative in the United Nations in 1964 to place the item "non-proliferation of nuclear weapons" on its agenda.

In 1965, India, along with seven other countries, submitted a joint memorandum for achieving a solution to the problem of proliferation of nuclear arms.

The memorandum called for negotiation of an international treaty based, among others, on the principles that (a) the treaty should be devoid of any loopholes which might permit nuclear on non-nuclear powers to proliferate, directly or indirectly, nuclear weapons in any form; (b) it should embody an acceptable balance of mutual responsibilities and obligations of nuclear and non-nuclear powers; and (c) it should be a step towards the achievement of general and complete disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament.

These principles constituted the basis of Resolution 2028 (XX) adopted on November 19, 1965 by the General Assembly with an overwhelming majority of supporters including the UK, USA and the Soviet Union.

In 1978, India repeated its appeal for a total prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons and in 1982, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi proposed a five-point programme for achieving complete disarmament within an agreed time-frame. At this session of the General Assembly specially devoted to disarmament, India also tabled the text of a draft international treaty prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

In the same year, India proposed a resolution on the freeze of nuclear weapons manufacture, combined with a cut-off in the production of fissile material for weapons purposes.

Action plan

At the Third Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament in 1983, the then prime minister Rajiv Gandhi proposed an Action plan for ushering in a nuclear weapon-free and non-violent world order. The most essential feature of the plan is the achievement of the objective of complete elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2010 at the latest. The action plan, seen as a logical culmination of the policies pursued by India over the years, also contains a package of measures that structurally link the entire range of issues currently on the world disarmament agenda.

At this session, India presented a working paper on new technologies and qualitative arms race. The paper recommended banning of technological missions clearly designed for developing new weapons and drawing up guidelines in respect of new technologies with potential military applications. Another working paper by India was about the disposal of warheads on nuclear missiles covered by the INF Treaty. It recommended that both the USA and the USSR be urged not to recycle the fissile material

released (as a result of the Treaty) into other nuclear weapons and place it under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency. "At the same time," the paper said, "there should be a freeze on further production of fissile material for weapons purposes."

An international non-governmental conference, "Towards a Nuclear Weapons Free and Non-Violent World" was held in New Delhi from November 14 to 16, 1988. It constituted one of the first important events marking the commencement of the centenary celebrations of Jawaharlal Nehru, a great champion of the cause of disarmament. The conference, in which most of the important international peace movements and disarmament related organisations were represented, unanimously adopted a joint statement endorsing India's action plan. The statement contains a number of new disarmament ideas and proposals, many of which were put forward for the first time in an international gathering.

India's untiring efforts to achieve complete disarmament are bound to continue with the new government taking over recently. One of the last functions performed by the outgoing External Affairs Minister, P.V. Narasimha Rao, was his October address at the U.N. General Assembly on the subject of disarmament.



Peace and disarmament

Mahatma Gandhi's non-violent struggle won freedom for India and since then such statesmen as Nehru and others have given high priority to peace and disarmament.

JOINT VENTURES

Building a reputation

By G. Srinivasan

THE Indian construction industry has had a magnificent past over the centuries, as evidenced by the historical structures of exquisite workmanship. Coupled with these, the rich cultural heritage and diversity have enabled the industry to achieve a unique standing internationally. Now, in modern times, construction companies in India, by blending state-of-the-art technology with traditional skills, have conclusively demonstrated their competence in executing highly sophisticated projects in civil engineering.

India made a dramatic entry into the international construction scene in the 1970s in the wake of the oil boom and construction explosion in the West Asian countries. Between 1975 and 1982, Indian construction companies obtained overseas projects amounting to Rs 50 billion (Rs 100 = 6 US dollars). And in 1988, India secured construction contracts of Rs 35 billion, involving 39 projects of colossal dimensions. Of these, the maximum value of projects was in Malaysia where Indian companies executed projects worth over Rs 1.2 billion.

Among the prestigious projects handled by Indian construction companies abroad are the Karthi Water Supply Scheme in Iraq (Rs 8.45 billion), the turnkey construction of sections 3 and 4 Musayyab-Karbala-Samawa Railway Project in Iraq (Rs 3.2 billion), Wadi Ghan Dam Project in Libya (Rs 1.01 billion) super market complexes in Doha (Qatar), construction of airport terminal building complex at Abu Dhabi and the Muscat palace complex.

Within the country, Indian companies have been handling the most sophisticated projects, whether it is in the sphere of buildings, roads, bridges, airport development or rail line construction, structural steel fabrication, hydro-electric projects or dam construction. Although Indian construction companies had executed projects abroad, they have also taken

pains to acquire latest technology for optimum results. Thus co-operation between the business organisation of different nations has become imperative. With India as the vanguard of the co-operative efforts, Indian construction companies have been collaborating in joint ventures with European, Japanese and American companies on projects in India as well as in third countries.

Experience

What is particularly noteworthy about Indian construction companies working abroad is that the experience has exposed them to the highly competitive and technologically sophisticated international construction business. It is significant to note that the Government of India, on its part, has responded positively to project exports in a variety of ways. With a view to promoting exports, projects and consultancy services, the Government has taken several steps which include (i) grant of project assistance to the tune of 10 per cent of net foreign exchange earnings from the service portion of the contracts; (ii) market development assistance for reimbursement of 50 per cent of cost of preparation and submission of bids; and (iii) market development assistance for opening and operating overseas offices by consultancy firms.

India's large reservoir of highly qualified personnel in the technical, managerial and financial disciplines has enabled construction companies to offer an attractive package of terms to potential overseas clients and, above all, their personnel working abroad have been able to adapt themselves easily to the various socio-cultural and geographical environments where they work.

While in the project exports undertaken by them the Indian construction companies have distinguished themselves to the highly competitive global market, Indian joint venture projects too have made their mark abroad through hard work

and dedication to the chosen tasks. Joint ventures do not include mere movement of capital between countries such as from the affluent West to the developing countries. Joint ventures constitute skills for expansion of productive capacity, trade and technological capability beside the mobilisation of resources. Indian joint ventures in operation are currently dispersed over 38 countries. As at the end of March 1989, 186 joint ventures were in operation and out of these 152 were in production, and the other 34 under production. Amazingly, over 82 per cent of the joint ventures are concentrated in 10 countries, Malaysia (22), Singapore (14), Nigeria (13), Indonesia (11), United Kingdom (11), West Asia (6), Sri Lanka (18), United Arab Emirates (8), Thailand (8) and Kenya (7).

Benefits

The benefits accruing to India from the successful ventures abroad are in the form of dividends and other entitlements such as fees for technical know-how, engineering and management fees. Some joint ventures also declared bonus shares from time to time which exceeded Rs 123 million. The issue of bonus shares has enlarged Indian investment and enhanced the capacity of the units to remit larger amounts by way of dividend to the future.

The benefits that have accrued to the country from joint ventures abroad in the form of dividends, know-how and other fees were Rs 512.6 million. Some of the joint ventures abroad are doing exceedingly well such as the paper project in Kenya, the synthetic fibre and the carbo black plant in Thailand, the steel tube project in Singapore and the light engineering complex in Nigeria.

Both joint ventures abroad and Indian construction companies have earned a distinct reputation for themselves in the competitive international markets, thereby showing the emerging skill and sophistication of Indian industries to various fields. — (PTI Feature)



Indian construction companies are working in several countries in the Gulf.

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AGRICULTURE

Agro-based industry gets top priority

By K.R. Sudhaman

TO a visitor India appears a paradox. On the one hand, it is among the top ten industrialised nations of the world and, on the other, prevalence of abject poverty in large sections of the population places it among the poor ones. This contradiction, which has created "two Indias", can well be attributed to a situation where developmental planning has not been able to keep pace with factors like rising population, runaway inflation and a severe resource crunch over the years.

The new National Front government under Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh is well aware of these debilitating effects and has therefore, immediately on assuming office, announced that 50 per cent of plan allocations would henceforth be made for rural development and agriculture — the two most crucial sectors of the Indian economy.

As an expression of its intentions, the government has, for the first time in independent India, entrusted the agriculture portfolio, to its deputy prime minister, Devi Lal, the former Chief Minister of one of India's agriculturally most developed states, Haryana, is committed to rural development and farming. Moreover, the very fact that a deputy prime minister holds the agriculture portfolio, vests the ministry with a degree of prestige and authority.

Another pointer to the thinking of the new government is the appointment of former Karnataka chief minister Ramkrishna Hegde as the deputy chairman of the Planning Commission. While the prime minister is ex-officio the chairman of the



commission, the deputy chairman is the active head of this vital state agency. Hegde has made it clear in his maiden press conference in December, that "agriculture and agro-based industries would get top priority in the Eighth Five-Year Plan" which would be implemented from April 1990.

Today, agriculture in India accounts for nearly 30 per cent of its gross national product and employs about 60 per cent of the population. It is the biggest private enterprise with more than three-fourths of land holdings under two hectares. Of the cultivated area, more than two-thirds is unirrigated.

Naturally, this has led to an inordinately high dependence on rain-fed (dryland) agriculture. The states of West Bengal,

Orissa, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and parts of Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh depend on these forms of agriculture. They are also the states with the highest incidence of poverty. In turn, this has led to large-scale indebtedness among small and marginal farmers.

But there is a silver lining too. The green revolution in the sixties and subsequent improvements in Indian farming conditions have resulted in a tremendous boost in the per hectare yield of agricultural produce in the country. This year foodgrains production is expected to cross the targeted 170 million tonnes and touch an all-time high of 175 million tonnes. In particular, kharif (monsoon) crop,

despite poor rainfall this year, is expected to reach a record 98 million tonnes.

Clearly, the benefits of such phenomenal progress, have not percolated down to the small and marginal farmers. Rural indebtedness is high and the purchasing power of the farmer continues to be low. Some relief on this is expected to be provided by the government in keeping with its election manifesto which had promised to "write off the loans of small and marginal farmers, cumulatively amounting to about Rs 13,000 crore (\$75 million)". Prime Minister V.P. Singh has reiterated that his party cannot go back on its election promises.

The previous government under Rajiv Gandhi had tried to tide over the problem by reduc-



ing interest rates on loans taken by farmers to as low as between 1.5 and 2.5 per cent. Refinancing facilities were also provided to co-operative institutions under a special Foodgrains Production Programme in 14 major states. Under this, productivity was sought to be increased in five crops — rice, wheat, maize, gram and pulses — through improved farming technology, assuring supply of agricultural inputs and efficient water management.

Problems
Another serious problem that has dogged successive governments since independence is raising the growth rate of agriculture to the same level as that of industry. Despite four decades of planning, food production (in terms of rupee value) has consistently fallen back in relation to industry. Furthermore, over 80 per cent of foodgrains procurement in the country for the public distribution system comes from just three States — Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

To step up the growth rate in other regions, certain agro-climatic specific measures were recommended by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI). Accordingly, the country has been divided into 15 zones for the purposes of evolving specific farm practices and cropping patterns suitable to local conditions.

One redeeming feature about Indian agriculture is that there is no starvation among the people. Despite the worst drought of the century in 1987, people had enough to eat. India did not have to go around with a begging bowl as in the sixties when adverse climatic conditions had created crop failure during several years.

From a foodgrains importing country, India has emerged as an exporting country earning nearly Rs 2,500 crore in foreign exchange every year. All this augurs well. But a lot more needs to be done. For as Hegde himself put it: "Before we move to the twenty-first century, the vast gap between the two Indias must be bridged."

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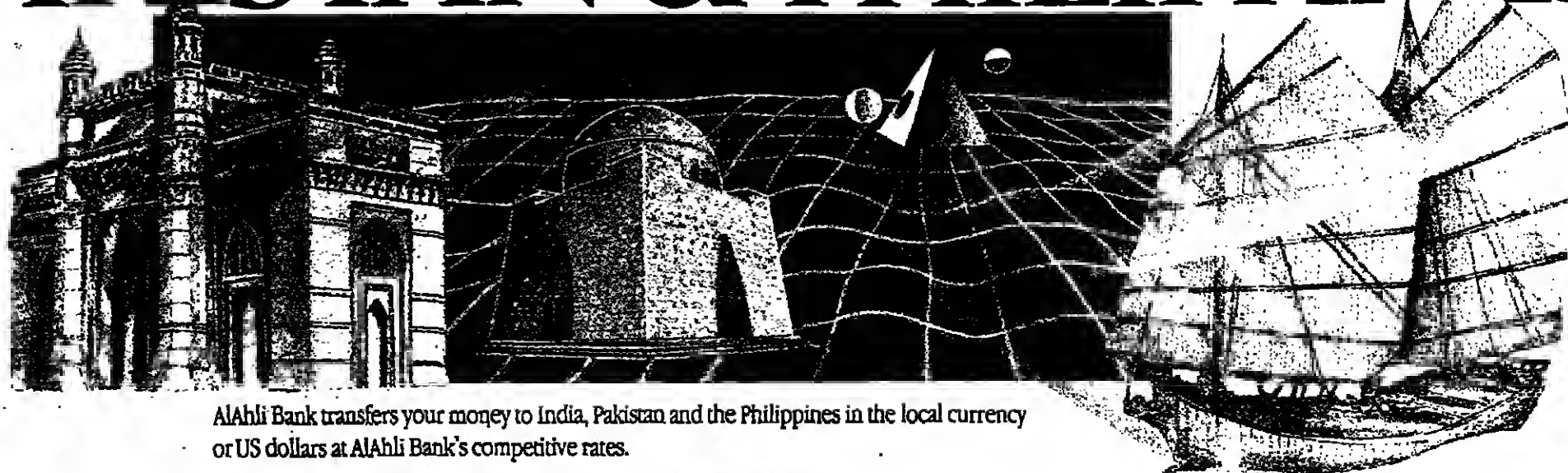
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WILDLIFE AND ENVIRONMENT

Facing challenges

By Nirmala George

THE past two decades have seen a remarkable increase in global concerns over the deterioration in the world's environment. India too, has not lagged in its efforts to protect and preserve its environment and halt the degradation of its land, water and air. Forty-two years after the country gained independence, India still faces myriad problems. The country's population of nearly 800 million is expected to touch the 972 million mark by the turn of the century. The combination of wide-spread poverty and a galloping population directly dependent on natural resources for their food, fuel and shelter, takes a heavy toll on the environment.

By the end of the sixties, India realised that measures to improve the quality of life of the people and to pull them out of the clutches of poverty could have a devastating impact on the environment. Major irrigation projects and dams which brought water to the parched fields, eventually led to the salin-

ity of large tracts of land. Improvements in roads and communications also provided easy access to the country's forest and led to faster deforestation. The growth of industries, especially around the urban metropolises, contributed to air and water pollution. Were our developmental objects askew and will we end up paying an enormous price in the form of an degraded ecology?

This question arose as early as in the late sixties and in the years that followed. Environmental concerns are increasingly being taken into consideration from the planning stage onwards when any major industrial or irrigation project is set up.

One of the most serious environmental problems facing the country today is the loss of its forest cover. In a developing country, the importance of forests in sustaining the lives of the poor, in providing them with food, fuel, shelter and a means of livelihood, is incalculable.

Many experts fear that India may have already gone beyond the threshold of tolerable levels in the loss of its forests. The coun-

try's forest cover requirement, determined at 33 per cent of its land area, today had reached the perilously low level of 11 per cent of the total land area. Forests are also crucial for Indian agriculture as they prevent soil erosion, floods, siltation of dams, desertification and drought.

Resources

Forest policy till very recently concentrated on the productive aspects of forests with the rich tropical cover being viewed as a source of revenue, timber and fuel wood. India has nearly 100 million poor people who lived off forests. Traditionally this was a symbiotic relationship with no damage being done to its ecological role. With the increase in human and cattle population, forests are being destroyed at an alarming rate. Nearly 1.5 million hectares are felled each year for timber, paper and packaging industries. The trend, if not halted, will spell disaster for the country.

India's chief water resource is its network of 14 major rivers and nearly a hundred medium and minor rivers. In early times the

thick forests that covered large parts of the country, served to hold back rainwater which falls during the four-month monsoon. With deforestation, the rainfall patterns are varying each year and the soil's capacity to retain water is restricted. The annual rainfall leads to floods in some parts, while too little rainfall cause drought conditions. Deforestation is also responsible for the washing away of precious top soils which end up silting the rivers and reservoirs. Environmental degrading has led to a sharp increase in the area prone to flood damage increasing from 19 million hectares in 1960 to over 50 million hectares in recent years.

While industrialisation was given due priority by the country's policy planners as an instrument of development and thereby, to eradicate poverty, the polluting effects of certain industries were overlooked. Effluents discharged from industries, and human wastes from the sewage systems of most towns are discarded untreated into the nearest rivers. It has been estimated that 70 per cent of all the available

water in India is polluted, and a recent survey found that nearly 80 million workdays are lost annually due to water-related diseases. Cleaning up the rivers and lakes and restoring their water quality is a task that requires urgent attention. Tough legislation to prevent and control water pollution was passed in 1974, there have been very few instances of action being taken against offenders. In many cases the worst offenders are the city municipal bodies which are responsible for sewage disposal.

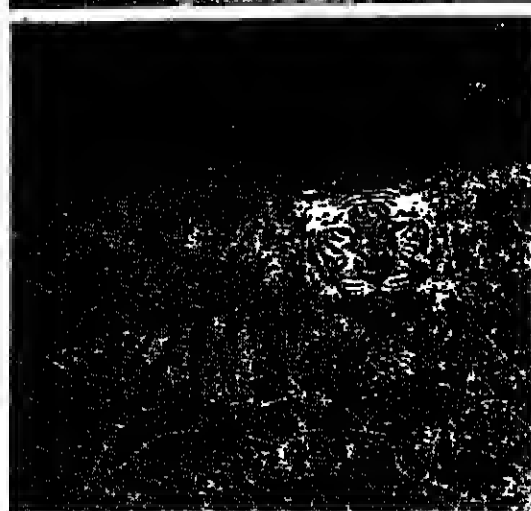
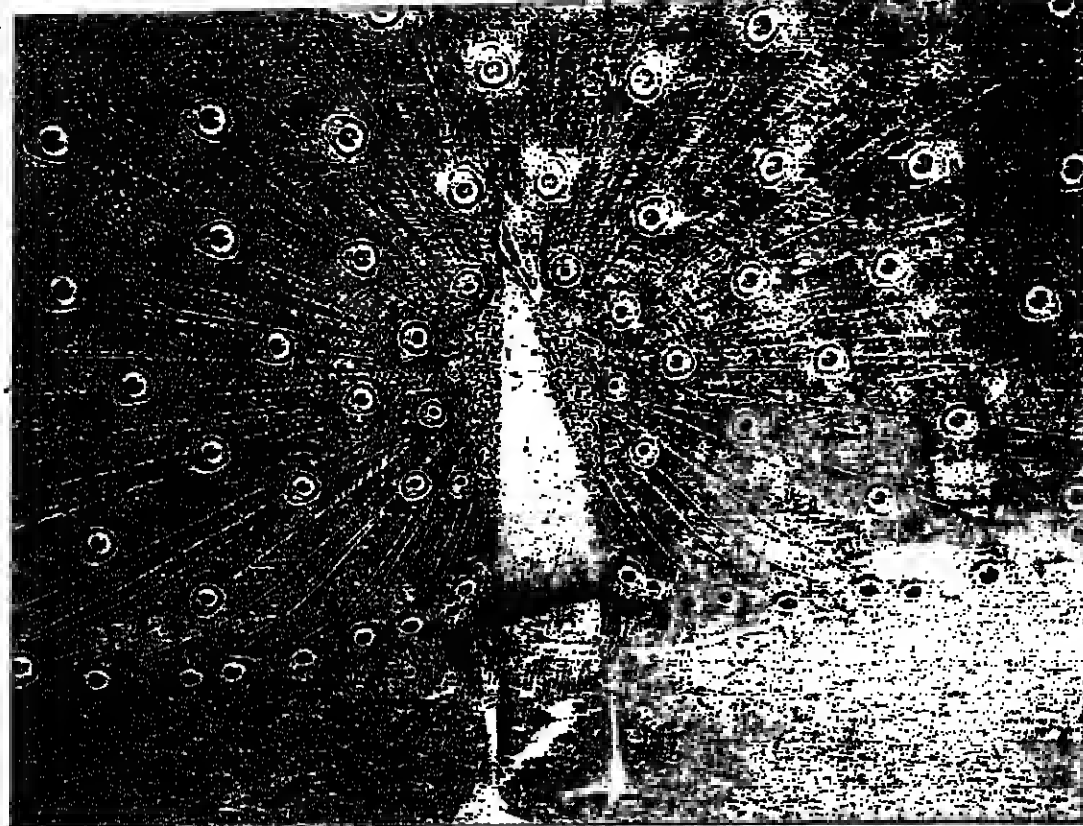
Pollution

Air pollution too is a growing especially in the cities. With the rapid rate of urbanisation and the acceleration in industrial growth, this form of pollution is expected to rise. Legislation to prevent air pollution was enacted in 1981, but has not proved to be effective.

India is a treasure house of biological diversity, boasting over 75,000 animal species and 45,000 plant species. The subcontinent is home to 340 mammals over 2,100 birds and some 2,000 fishes. Its wealth of flora includes 15,000 flowering plants. The snowy reaches of the Himalayas are the domain of the Hangul or Kashmir stag, Himalayan bears and the endangered snow leopard. The foothills and plains of the Terai region in northern India are the abode of tigers, elephants, leopards and many species of deer. Peninsular India and the humid tropical forests of the Western Ghats play host to the India elephant, rare monkeys, many bird and reptile species. The wet grasslands of north-eastern India abound in swamp deer and wild buffaloes. The great Indian rhinoceros and tigers are also found in the eastern state. The Andaman and Nicobar islands which form the last contiguous tract of low-lying tropical rain forests are rich in rare flora and fauna.

Among the greatest challenges facing the country is to preserve this diversity from the onslaught of human activity. Sixty-seven national parks and 394 wild life sanctuaries, covering four per cent of the total geographical area of the country have been declared natural parks where the entire ecosystem is being conserved in order to protect endangered species and their natural habitats. Project Tiger, a programme begun in 1973 to conserve the Indian tiger, has been a phenomenal success, with the number of tigers in the country having doubled. Seventeen tiger reserves, totally covering 26,643 sq kilometres have been established in 13 states under the programme.

Apart from protecting individual species efforts are also underway to preserve their habitats and total ecosystems are being restored to health. While 13 potential sites have been identified for setting up biosphere



The peacock's vanity is proverbial and its feathers unmatched for beauty; once an endangered species the tiger can be seen in many sanctuaries; a herd of sambar, the last of the Asiatic lions in Sasan Gir sanctuary.

reserves, four have already been established. Seven per cent of the world's mangrove forests are in India and an action plan has been launched to protect these forests from human encroachments. Similar efforts are also afoot to protect the wetlands and the unique ecosystems of the Andamans and Nicobar and the Lakshadweep islands.

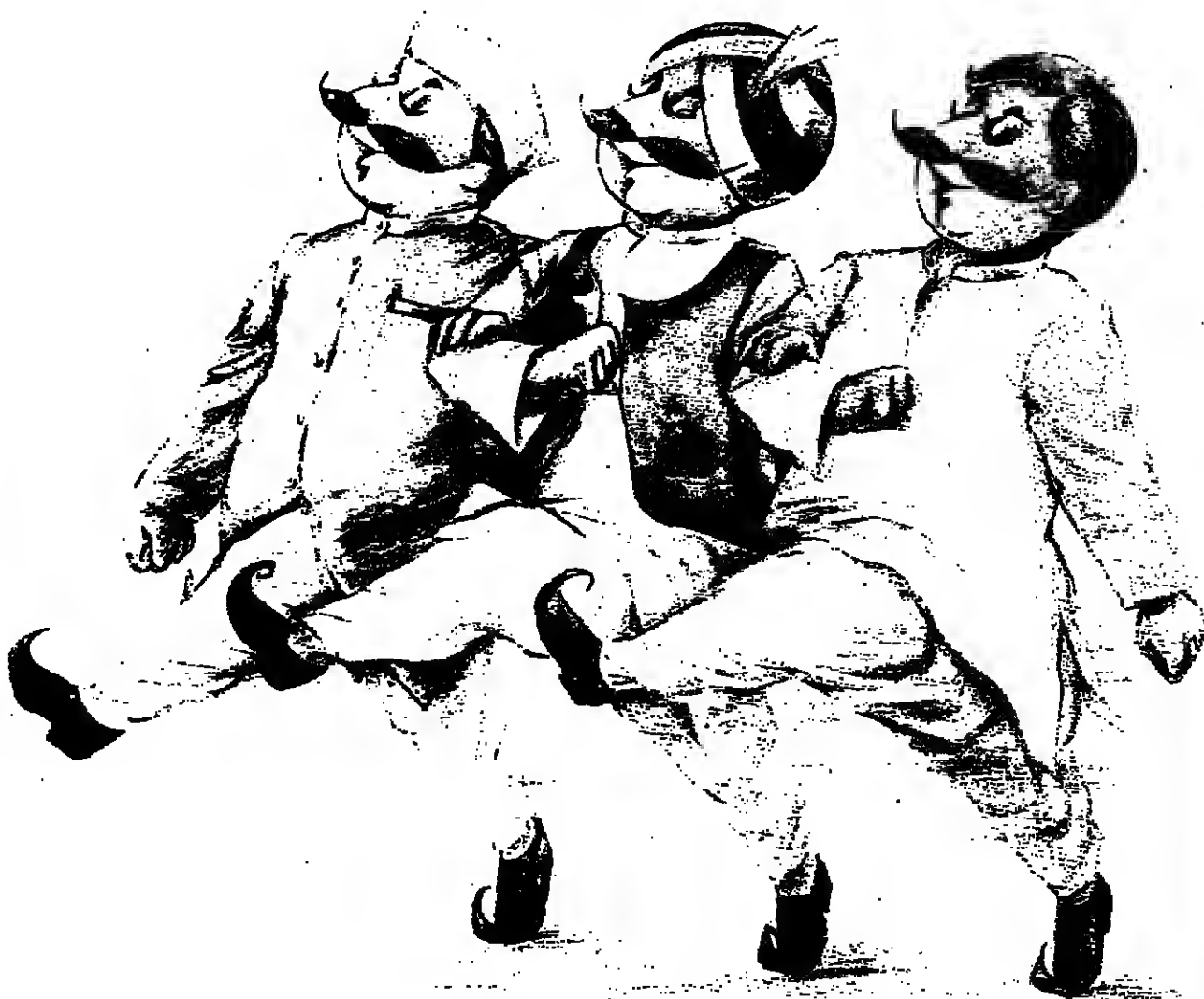
India has long record of conservation and ancient Indian history gives numerous instances of entire communities giving their lives to protect and prevent the killing of animals or the felling of forests. One of the most successful conservation movements was the Chipko movement in the Garhwal region of the Himalayan foothills where people

hugged trees and refused to let them be cut. Post-independence India has also taken up the issue of conservation and participated actively in global efforts to tackle environmental problems.

India has articulated the concerns of the developing countries in the debate on global warming and depletion of the ozone layer. New Delhi has been a signatory to numerous international treaties and conventions on protecting the environment, including agreements on Antarctica, whaling, prevention of sea pollution and on the prevention of trade in endangered species. At the October 1989 Commonwealth summit, India put forward a proposal for an 18 billion

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Conservation in India goes
back to the ancient period.
Above: "Hour of Cowdust,"
miniature from 18th century
Rajasthan

TRIVANDRUM

Gateway to emerald kingdom

TRIVANDRUM, the capital of Kerala, is built atop seven hills near the sea. Situated near the southernmost point of the country, the city enjoys an enviable location: it is a convenient starting point for excursions to the lush green interiors, palm fringed lakes and inland lagoons — the homeland, along with other southern states, of the old Dravidian civilisation of India.

City of Anantha
This attractive little city owes its name to an ancient legend according to which present day 'Trivandrum' is a derivation from the word 'Thiru-Anantha-puram'... the city of Anantha. It is believed to be the abode of the sacred serpent Anantha, on which the preserver of the holy Hindu Trinity, Lord Vishnu, is said to recline.

The Padmanabhaswamy temple which is dedicated to this legend comes as a rather delightful surprise to the visitor. Legend stands transformed into stone, emphasising the vitality and energy of a people who have expressed their religious beliefs with such infinite fervour.

Typically Dravidian in style, the temple has enormous gate towers called Gopurams rising seven storeys high and heavily decorated with sculpted figures. Shrines and hallways decorated with fine stone sculptures stand within its walls. Sacred to Hindus since antiquity the temple which was built in 1733 AD by Raja Marthanda Varma, stands reflected in a pool of silver water.

This beautiful Hindu temple lends an interesting note to the seaside city of Trivandrum, which in its traditional environs bears the statistical fact that it is the capital of a state with the highest density of population and highest rate of literacy in India.

A collection of bronzes
A dominant building in the city is the hurried structure standing on the crest of the public gardens near Observatory Hill. This is the Napier Museum which has a varied collection of bronzes. A model of the "Tara-war," a large house that holds the living quarters of the Nair joint family is an unusual item of special interest, since Kerala is the home of the 'Nairs', a class of warrior people rather like the 'Samurai' of Japan.

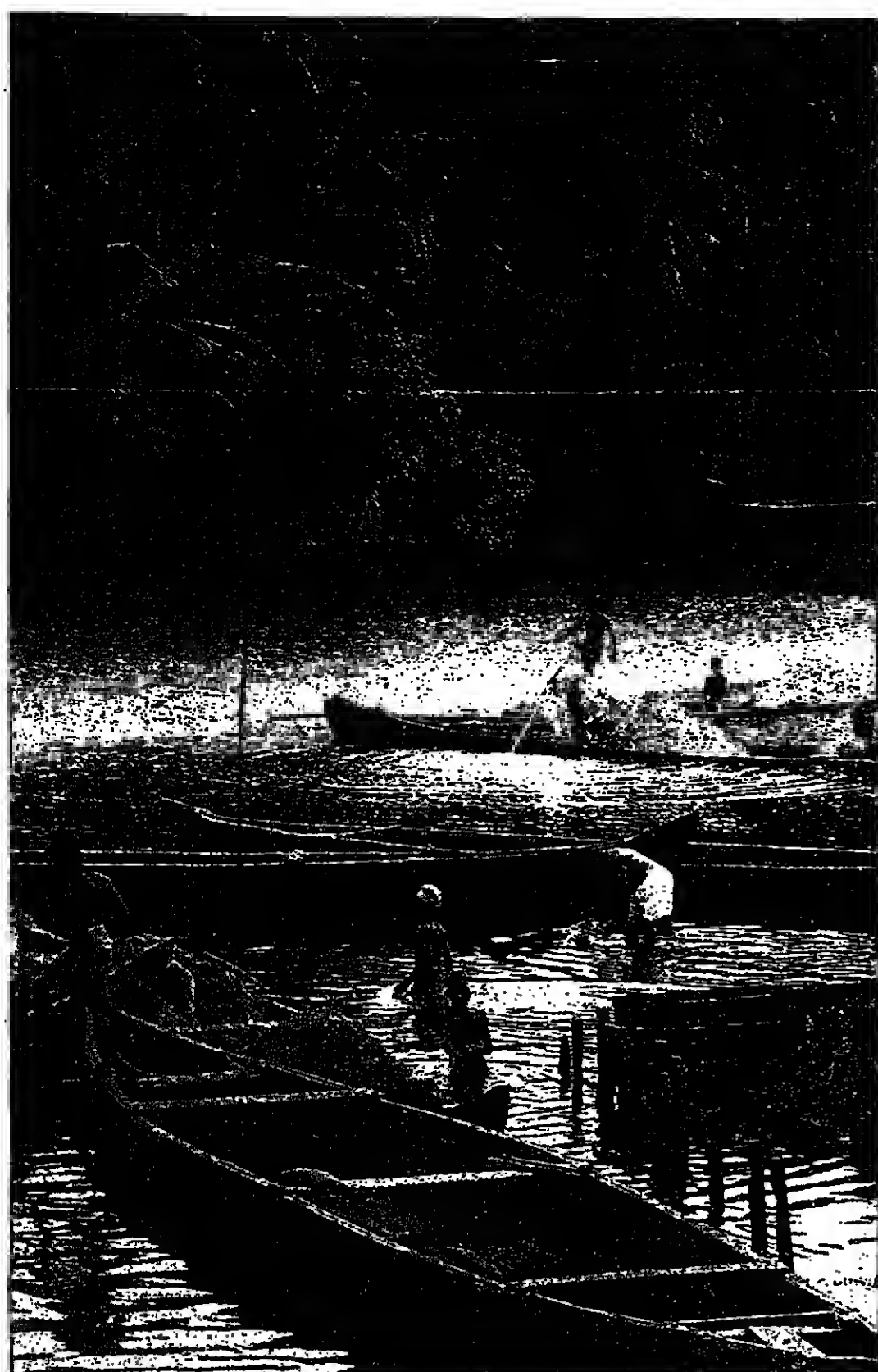
The Sri Chithra Art gallery, within the precincts of the museum, has an excellent collection of paintings — from the Rajput, Tanjore and Moghul period, a few from the Ajanta and Bagh caves, some interesting works from Chinese, Japanese, Tibetan and Japanese schools, and a number of paintings of the great doyen, Raja Ravi Varma, who contributed greatly to the development of art in the southern states of India. The aquarium and zoo are some of the best in the region and well worth a visit.

White sandy shores
Trivandrum's palm fringed beaches and white sandy shores offer pleasurable evenings by the seaside. The sea is a special blessing to Kerala. Much of the state's vast coastline, stretching 579 kilometres, is dotted with picturesque beaches which are unusual in that they are bordered by cool green palm groves that sway languidly in the breeze and lush tropical vegetation.

Close to Trivandrum, at a distance of 13 km, is a delightful natural bay, Kovalam, that invites the swimmer to partake of its surge and high wave-free waters. One of the finest beaches of India, Kovalam offers miles upon miles of glistening sands entirely to oneself, a dazzling blue sea and breathtaking scenery.

A five-star resort hotel offers a health, transcendental meditation and yoga centre... a speciality being the oil massage in which ancient Ayurvedic herbs are used. An open air theatre stages the classical dance drama, Kathakali, which is characterised by graceful stylised movements and elaborate costumes. Kerala is the home of this famed dance form which was originally developed from the "Kudiyattam" — the first attempt to scrutinise Sanskrit texts. A few pleasant hours can be spent watching this graceful dance as it dramatises the great epics, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. For those interested in learning the rigours of this dance, a visit to the Kerala Arts Academy at Cheruthuruthi, north of Cochin, is a must.

A wooden palace
An interesting excursion 53 km from Trivandrum is the Padmanabhapuram palace which has been the ancient centre of the Travancore rulers and contains a rare and beautiful wooden palace with elaborate carvings and rare murals. Another 33 kms from here brings the visitor to the rocky beach of Kanyakumari. This is the southernmost tip of India, literally Lands End as it is called, where the waters of three oceans meet... the Arabian Sea,



the Bay of Bengal, and the Indian Ocean. A magnificent sight by any standard, the fantastic effects of sunrise and sunset at this spot are nothing short of awesome. A pilgrimage spot for Hindus on account of the Kanyakumari temple, it has also the Vivekananda Rock Memorial offshore to which a motor boat carries the interested visitor.

Brilliant red cliffs
Only 51 kms north of Trivandrum is the coastal town of Varkala which has a beautiful beach untouched by commercial debris. An artist would be hard put not to capture the brilliant red cliffs looming large on the coastline and a magnificent turquoise sea stretching to meet the sky line. Its most famous monument is the Janardanaswamy temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu. Mineral water springs of therapeutic value are other attractions.

Further north is the ancient town of Quilon, lying on the creek-fed lake of Ashtamudi. A port for over 3,000 years, since Phoenician times, Quilon lies drenched in history and in the sun. Time seems to stand still for these sea-faring people with their graceful Chinese fishing nets pinning down the colours of the sun onto the banks of the waterways. Here, centuries ago, the Dutch, the Portuguese and British ships anchored and left fragments of history that remain preserved to this day.

From Quilon, one can explore the backwaters of Kerala — winding natural waterways that transverse thick tropical forests and are the sole means of communications with the villages inland. A boat-ride down the waterways to Alleppey, the coir centre of India, is a thrilling experience. Shining sheets of placid water wind gracefully through thick glades of green, echoing to the shrill cries of birds.

Suddenly clearings reveal palm thatched villages, sunburnt children playing by the waters, women with a silken sheen to their dark skins, liquid eyed, holding a backed of husk covered coconuts, a slim wooden boat gliding ahead carrying its cargo of coconuts while a lungi clad, bare chested man steers it with a wooden paddle... all this grips one with an unbelievable feeling of having stepped back hundreds of years in time.

Landscape transformations
From Alleppey, a drive on the main central road, through the commercial centre of Kottayam, known for its graceful churches, brings the visitor to the coun-

tryside very different from the shaded lagoons and quiet waterways. The landscape undergoes a gradual transformation. Shaded hillsides, tender slopes and green valleys mark the delightful 115 km drive to the Periyar Game Sanctuary. The road curves around the large cardamom covered hill sides, past rubber plantations and neatly manicured tea gardens. Hills melt into green mountains with dense vegetation.

The southern reaches of the Western Ghats in Kerala present a diverse range of flora and fauna and a great wealth of wild life. Lofy deciduous forests are dotted with extensive clearings of tall grass and a rich undergrowth of shrub and herbs. Teak, rosewood, sandalwood and ebony are features of the forest that provide raw material for much of Kerala's famed wooden handicrafts — rosewood and teak furniture as well as intricately carved household items.

Wildlife sanctuary
Set in a picturesque setting on the Periyar lake in the hills of the Western Ghats is one of the world's finest sanctuaries — Thekkady — just acclaimed for its scenic beauty and rich wild life. Against a truly natural setting can be seen handsome beasts — the gaur or Indian bison, wild boar, swamp deer and, of course, the Indian elephant. The best season is from September to April, when herds of elephant come down to the lake to drink and bathe.

The still and calm waters of the Periyar lake provide a natural home for waterbirds — cormorants, ducks and darters. A number of good hotels dot the shores and motorboats are available to cruise the waters while watching wild animals drinking water at the lake. On an island in the heart of the lake stands a former maharaja's palace, now converted into a beautiful hotel.

Tourist facilities
Over the years Trivandrum has developed from a captivating little town to a metropolis which has retained its gentle charm and leisurely lifestyle. Connected by rail and air to Bombay, Madras, Cochin and Madurai and by rail to New Delhi, Trivandrum offers tourist facilities of a high standard. It is now linked by air to Colombo and Dubai as well. There are 19 government approved hotels in the city as well as a Government and Corporation Rest House. Tourist cars, taxis and the city bus service operate and cover all routes to

places of tourist interest. A list of travel agents and guide services approved by the government can be obtained from the Government of Kerala Tourist Offices at Park View, at the airport and the bus station. As an entry point to its emerald hinterland — verdant rice fields, inland lagoons, spectacular waterways and unique landscapes — Trivandrum is a must on every tourist itinerary.

Gourmet's delight

WITH every daily event a celebration of life, Indian food is a heady multicourse meal for the gourmet with a taste for the exotic. India offers a diverse range of foods for the traveller — to be eaten crisp and freshly cooked from the hearth, for therein lies the flavour.

The mainstay of India's food is wheat and rice. The former is kneaded into a dough and prepared in a wide range of rotis, paranthas, naans and puris. The latter is boiled plain, fried, spiced or served as pulao and biryani in mouth watering concoctions. These are eaten with a variety of meat, fish and vegetable dishes in exotic combinations with very surprising results. Barbecued, grilled,

curried or fried meats, rich sea fare, lentil curries, curd preparations, salads, pickles, chutneys and rotis/rice are the basic foods of an Indian meal.

Ideally, if you are looking for rich fare, take your pick from a Mughlai or Kashmiri menu. In every region and in every city there is a refreshingly different meal to delight your palate. For desserts, there is a very wide range of milk sweets, syrup sweets, candies and sundaes. Have a chilled ras malai, kheer or phirni. Have some gulab jamun or jalebi hot from frying pan. Try a wide range of halwa made of carrots, pulses or egg. And Bengal rasogollas are superb.



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INDUSTRY

Emerging industrial power

By Krishan Anand

INDIA had a tradition of industrial progress long before the British arrived on the scene. The very fine quality of muslin produced by weavers in Bengal was famous the world over. The manufacture of steel was perfected long before the West knew about it. India's cottage industry not only provided sustenance to the rural economy, but also brought in valuable revenue for the country through exports of its products.

All this changed with the arrival of the British in the 17th century. They destroyed India's cottage and textile industries so that Britain's own mills could develop and expand. Thus, when India became independent in 1947, most of its needs were being imported. One of the few exceptions was steel, thanks to the efforts of that great industrial visionary, Jamsedji Naoroji Tata who set up a steel plant in Bihar.

Free India had therefore to start from scratch. In 1948, the government announced its industrial policy envisaging a mixed economy assuming overall responsibility for planned development and regulation of industrial production in the national interest. The policy was revised in 1956 by what came to be known as the Industrial Policy Resolution.

Under this, the nation's industrial activity was divided into three categories. First came the core sector in which the infrastructural or "mother" industries were listed under government control. Railways, communications, defence production, mining oil, energy and civil aviation all formed part of this sector and so did steel also, for a major part.

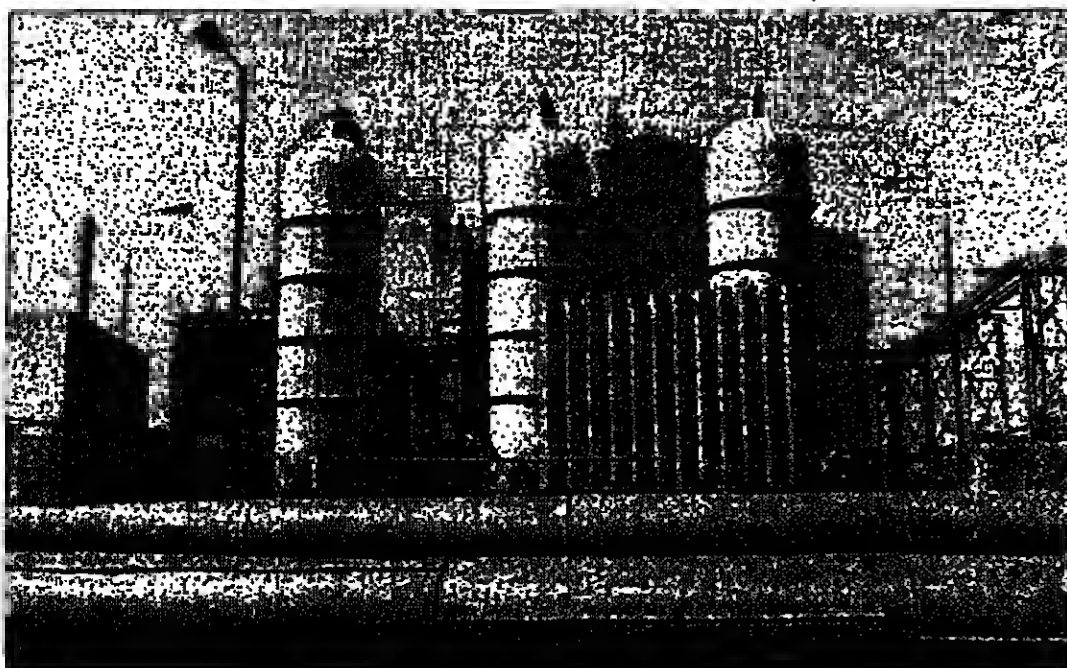
The second category comprised all those industries which were to be progressively taken over by the government into the public sector. And the third list had all those industries catering to consumer needs which were exclusively left to private entrepreneurs.

Apart from categorising the industries, the government formulated a policy framework to regulate their working. Rules and regulations were framed for checking the growth of monopolistic trends and concentration of wealth in a few hands. The emphasis has all through been on creating an egalitarian economy for the country's development.

In the process, India has emerged as a leading industrial power in the world with the capacity to produce almost everything it needs. According to latest official statistics, an investment of Rs 610 billion (Rs 100 equals six US dollars) in 225 public sector enterprises had yielded a combined turnover of Rs 690 billion. These units are presently contributing Rs 120 billion annually to the national exchequer by way of taxes and dividends. As many as 2.2 million persons are employed in the public sector.

Output
Industrial growth since the beginning of the planning process in 1950 bears several striking features. The national output has gone up by six and half times in the past four decades, as compared to a two per cent annual growth rate achieved during the first half of the century. The share of mining, manufacturing and the construction industries in the gross domestic product, has increased from 14.9 per cent to 21.2 per cent since 1950.

The growth and diversifica-



tion of the Indian manufacturing industry has been remarkable in modern times. Today, the country is self-reliant in the manufacture of plant and machinery needed by a large number of units for the production of consumer goods. Similarly, the fertiliser industry produces a large number of soil nutrients like urea, ammonium nitrate, ammonium sulphate, calcium, ammonium chloride and phosphoric acids. There are more than 100 medium and large scale engineering workshops fabricating machinery for fertiliser plants in the country.

The machine tools industry, by itself, has also achieved significant progress. Its production level has gone up from barely Rs 10 million in 1956 to over Rs 3000 million in 1986. It has now gone

into manufacturing hi-tech computerised and numerically controlled machine tools with capacity to turn out sophisticated milling machines, coordinate tables as well as horizontal and vertical machining centres.

In the metallurgical machinery sector, there are 27 units in the country manufacturing steel and metal plant equipment with a total installed capacity of Rs 800 million. Mining has 17 units in the organised sector with total approved production capacity of Rs 1300 million. Two public sector undertakings — Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation and Jessop and Company — are the leading manufacturers of mining machinery.

Similarly, 18 units in the country are engaged in the production



of various types of earth moving equipment and mobile cranes. The former includes shovels, bulldozers, crawlers, tractors, dumpers, loaders, scrapers, motor graders, excavators and draglines. In the field of steel structural fabrication, 143 units

are producing heavy, medium and light structures with a total installed capacity of 530,000 metric tonnes per annum.

Textiles

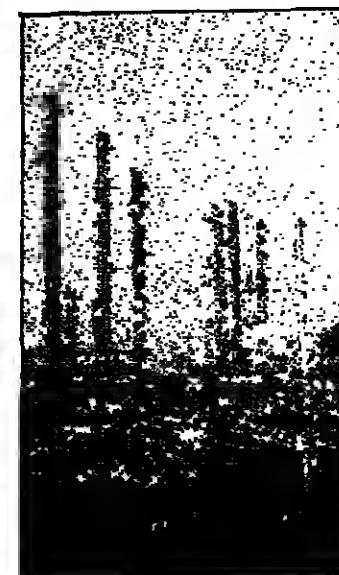
As for transmission line towers, 19 units have been established since independence and eight are in various stages of implementation with a total capacity of 300,000 metric tonnes. The textile machinery manufacturing industry has about 550 units. There are also 15 jute machinery manufacturers and another 140 small units engaged in producing spares. Another 11 are manufacturing rayon and synthetic fibre machinery with a total licensed capacity of Rs 330 million.

In the field of paper and pulp machinery, 32 units are engaged, 10 of which are catering to small size paper plants of 10 tonnes per day capacity. Complete pulp plants, stock preparation equipment and certain types of finishing equipment command an installed capacity exceeding Rs 500 million.

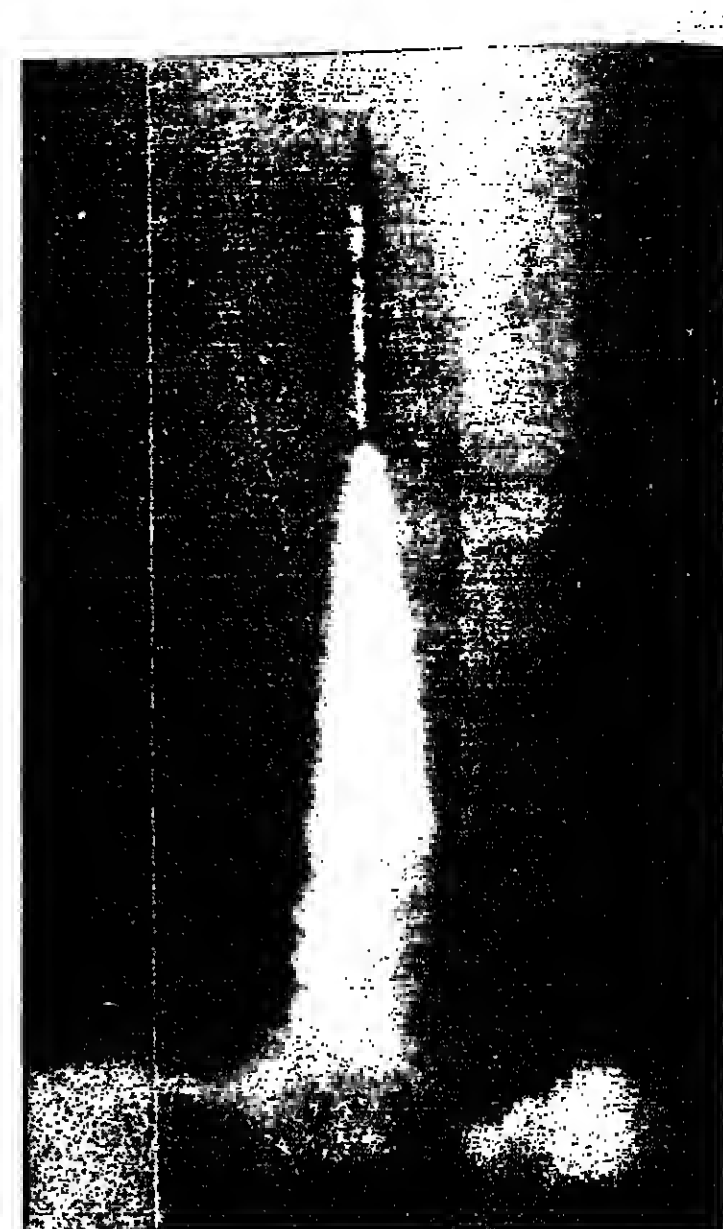
As regards the cement machinery sector, 15 units are in operation supplying complete plants both for pre-calcination and dry process technologies with capacities ranging from 600 to 3200 tonnes per day. The existing units have also taken up the manufacture of mini cement plants across the country.

In the field of sugar industry, 27 units are engaged in the manufacture of plants and components. Plants of 1250 tonnes per day capacity have already been commissioned and the industry is capable of handling larger plants up to 6000 tonnes per day.

The 1980s have seen several new policy initiatives for industrial growth. Efficiency, competitiveness, technological self-reliance and export boost-up are the cornerstones of the new policy. These have led to a gradual shift from discretionary qualitative controls to discretionary fiscal controls and the building of greater competitive pressure to improve quality and reduced costs. These have had a salutary effect on the Indian economy, which, despite scanty rainfall for some years, has developed considerable resilience in tiding over adversities.

**Progress**

In four decades, independent India has attained self-sufficiency in manufacture of machinery for its major industries — aircraft, ships, automobiles, locomotives, heavy electrical machinery, construction, power generation, precision instruments and machine tools. India now claims to be in a position to help other developing countries. Right: the successful test launch of the Agni missile in May last year.

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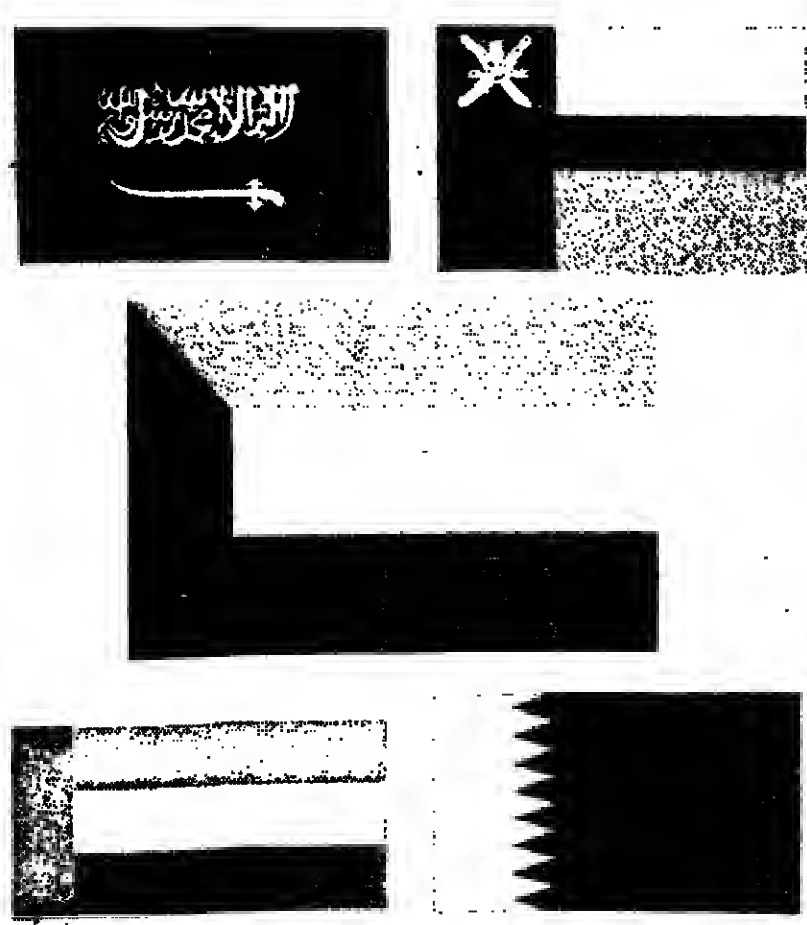
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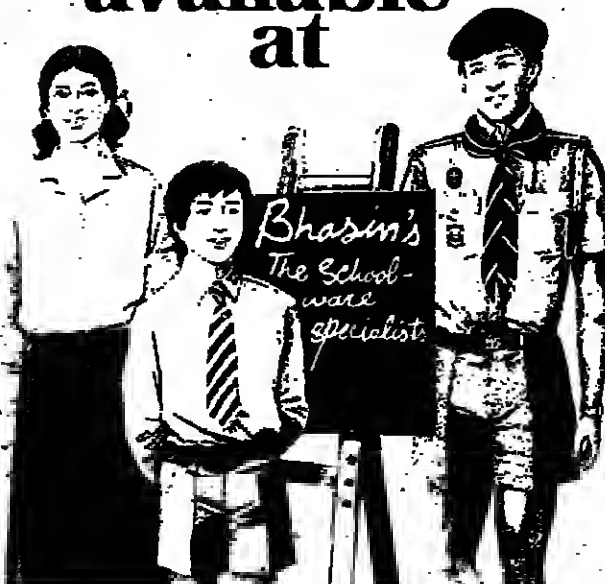
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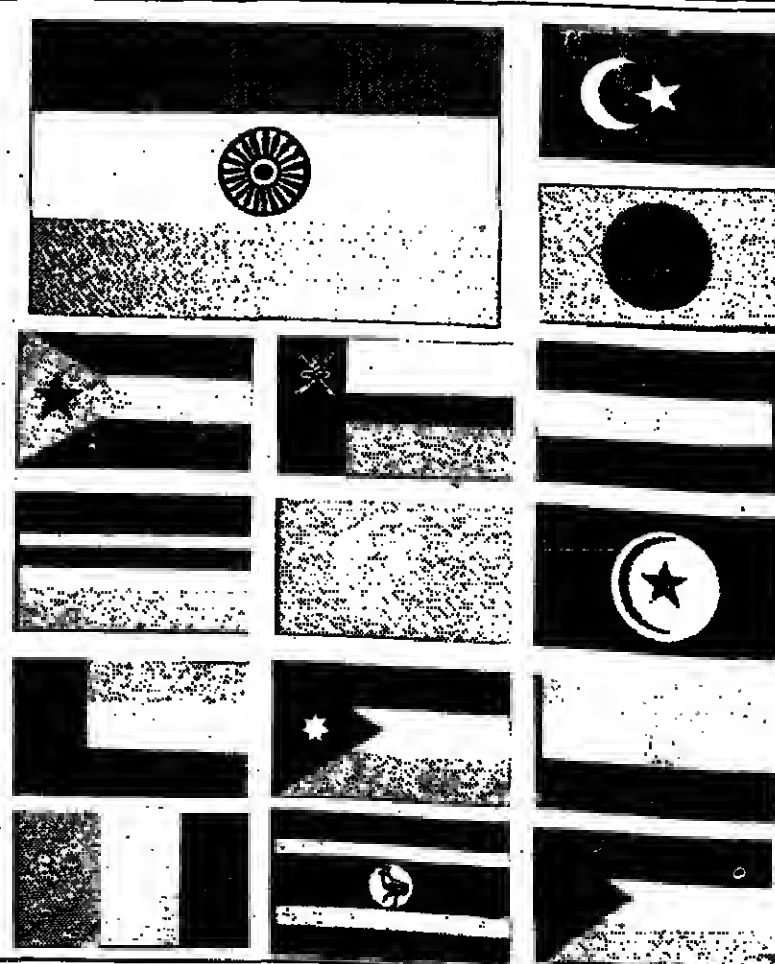
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Forging ahead in telecommunications

TELECOMMUNICATIONS
Consultants India Limited (TCIL) is a multi-disciplinary engineering organisation of the Government of India, engaged in the execution of telecommunication projects in India and abroad. Being an integral part of the India Department of Telecommunications, it has the back up of highly qualified and experienced managers and technocrats.

In a short period of 10 years, it has become a giant entrepreneur in India and a formidable international company in the field of telecommunications. TCIL has achieved an impressive record of performance by completing various projects in diversified fields of telecommunications.

Presently it is executing a large number of telecommunication projects in about 18 countries throughout the world. Its contribution in developing telecom services in Gulf countries like Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Sultanate of Oman, Yemen Arab Republic, etc., has been significant.

In Kuwait, TCIL has been doing very well and has established itself as a leading contracting company in telecommunications. It has executed major



Kuwait's Communication Minister Abdullah Abdul Mohsin Al Sharhan with his Indian counterpart Bir Bahadur Singh.

turnkey projects for the Ministry of Communications, Kuwait Oil Co. and other organisations.

Presently, TCIL is engaged on the construction and maintenance of telephone network in all exchange areas under town and Shuwaikh centers besides execution of turnkey projects for providing telephone network in the new housing colony of Al Qurraia and west Fintas, and for diversion of telephone cables along town highways.

TCIL is executing contracts for maintenance of digital electronic PABXs and low voltage systems in the ministries com-

plex and Ministry of Planning building. All the NEC type of electronic PABXs in the state of Kuwait are being maintained by TCIL engineers. A contract for the supply, installation and maintenance of communications and security systems for the new Indian embassy building is under execution.

Co-operation

To enhance the bi-lateral co-operation in the field of telecommunications between India and Kuwait, the Indian government invited the minister of Communications, Kuwait to visit India. In Feb 1989, Mr Abdullah Abdul

Mohsin Al Sharhan, minister of Communications along with the under Secretary and senior directors of the Ministry of Communications visited India.

This high power delegation was highly impressed by the advancement made by Indian telecommunications in various fields, like research, human resources development, indigenous development and production of switching system etc. Mr Abdullah Al Sharhan expressed his satisfaction over the efficiency of TCIL's operations in Kuwait.

Among the other GCC coun-

tries where TCIL made significant contribution to the development of telecommunication, Saudi Arabia is the foremost. TCIL was awarded a contract worth US\$ 150 million in Saudi Arabia for rehabilitation of telephone network in 5 urban areas.

Contract

TCIL has been awarded a prestigious contract by International Telecom Union (I.T.U) for drafting specifications and the system architecture for the satellite and ground stations for an African satellite (RASCOR) covering all the 50 countries in the continent and a few island countries. Recently TCIL has been prequalified by the World Bank for major turnkey telecom projects in Indonesia.

TCIL has setup a joint venture recently in association with Bell South International USA and another one with Nepostel, Netherlands, for development activities in software and high-tech areas relating to telecommunications.

TCIL has established a joint venture company for indigenous production of Jelly Filled Cables in collaboration with Essex U.S.A. and the Unit will commence production by the middle of this year.

Far left: testing cables; (centre) civil work to lay cables in Al Zoor area; (above) the NEC-type digital electronic PABX being tested at Kuwait Municipality; (below) providing a distribution network in Al Zoor



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Mystery of textile terminology

By Jyotindra Jain

It is not by chance that the people of ancient India expressed their philosophical ideas and summarised their worldview by using textile terminology. Significantly the word for 'attribute' is the same as that for a single thread of that the term for 'speculation' and that for spindle derives from a common root.

Some three thousand years ago, in the initial centuries of their entry into India, the pastoral Aryans probably wandered around, in the same manner as their contemporary survivors today, spinning wool with their spindle. *Sutra* the spun thread, became the basis for the fabric — also the fabric of the Universe. The 'holder of thread' (*sutradhara*) was coconvened as premier Architect — the Creator. No wonder the Aryan perception of the mysteries of time and space found expression through the symbolism of spinning and weaving. A Vedic poet visualised the phenomenon of day and night in the image of two immortal girls having different complexions weaving a fabric; one of them stretching the warp another feeding the weft.

It is only apt that the people whose early perceptions of the nature of the universe were expressed figuratively in terms of weaving should have created such rich and glorious traditions of textiles over the centuries.

Cotton was grown and woven into fabric in India five thousand years ago. Hemp, flax, wool and silk too, have a centuries-old history to the subcontinent.

Indian textiles presumably have been the single most popular item abroad for over five millennia. Harappans, to all probability, exported madder-dyed cotton to neighbouring regions. Brocaded textiles figured prominently in India's trade with Rome. In the late medieval times India was the greatest exporter of textiles ever known. Indian fabrics were proverbially renowned almost in every country of the civilised world. By the end of the 17th century, the Indian printed and painted cloth (*chintz*) had revolutionised European fashion so much so that the later textile manufactures of Europe were to become cheap imitations of the Indian prototypes.

Spinning

Before the introduction of mechanised means of spinning, in the early 19th century, all Indian textiles were handspun and handwoven — now popularly known as *Khadi*. These handwoven fabrics which use millspun yarn are known as handloom fabrics.

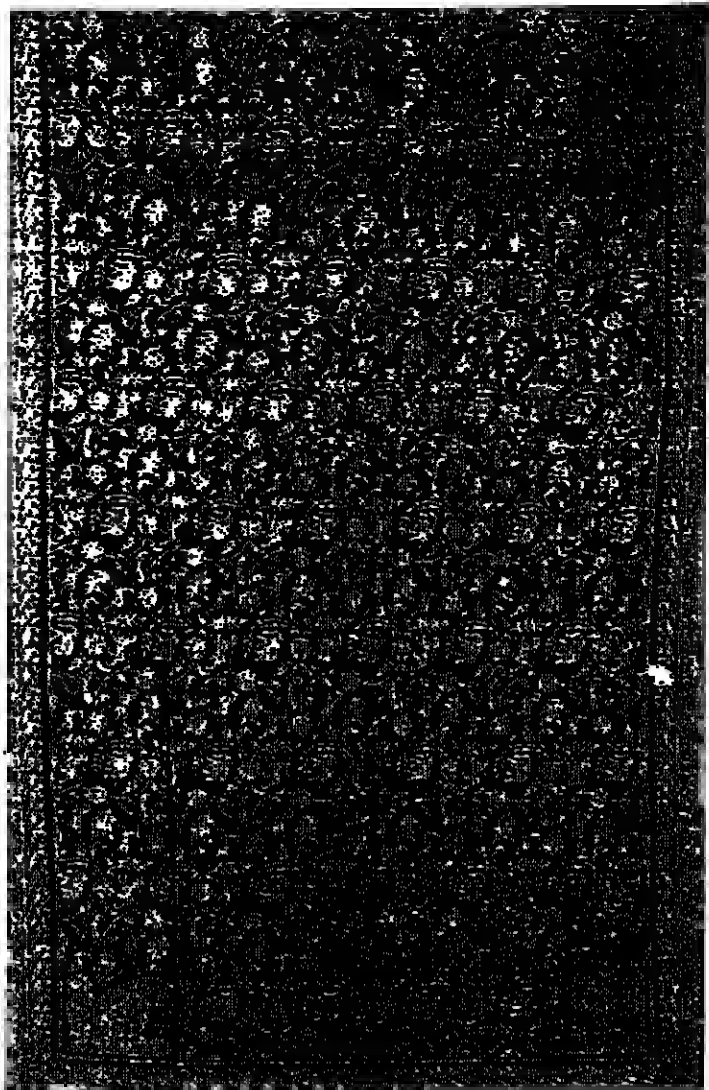
The rich and varied textile traditions of India are due to her variety of climatic zones, geographical situations, cultural pockets and religious and racial diversity. Heavily forested eastern and north eastern regions are ideally suitable for rearing silk worms, the plains are the fertile grounds for growing cotton whereas the cold and mountainous regions of the north and the hilly tracts of the rest of the country yield plenty of wool.

Every social or religious group had its own norms of colour, design or material for fabric and its own style of garments. The dividing line between religious and secular was thin. The myths and rituals, the fairs and festivals, the initiation ceremonies or the *sanskaras* at every important stage in life — all played an important role in determining the nature and character of textiles and garments. As pointed out by Pupal Jayakar, temples claimed for their rituals the finest creations of the craftsmen. Only the perfect-without-blemish could be offered to the godhead.

Colour

Sensitivity to colour was rooted in an inbuilt aesthetic perception — which combined emotional and mythical meaning. Red was the colour of love and youth and was the symbol of eternal marital bliss. Yellow signified fertility. Blue was worn by a beloved going to meet her lover at night. Saffron brought spring and fragrance. Saffron was also the colour of martyrdom and renunciation. Maroon and black were the colours of mourning. Krishna was blue, Shiva was fair, Kali was dark, Gauri was fair.

Unstitched lengths of fabric draped around the body formed the main garment of men and women in traditional India. It is evident that in most parts of the country the men tied a turban around the head, tied a *dhoti* or *lungi* around the waist and, wore a loose cloth like a scarf or shawl over the shoulder. The women wore a lower draped garment and covered their torso and sometimes their head with a second cloth which is known as *odhani* in Northern India. It is a fallacy to believe that these wrapping garments were not structured because they were not stitched. *Dhoti*, *odhani* and sari were as structured as the stitched garments because these were well defined, superbly appropriate to



the climate and had certain fine conventions and proportions as articulated by sociocultural norms. A woman's marital status, sub-caste, area of origin, and special circumstances, if any, could be immediately understood by the traditional community in which she lived from the sari she was wearing. A woman from Madras would never wear her sari the way a Gujarati woman would, though physically it might be possible to wear the same sari in two different ways it was culturally not possible. On the other hand, because of a certain flexibility in the manner of draping, the sari could be easily adapted to suit the occasion. While working in the farm or doing household work, a woman can pull up her sari and

Because the sari continues to be the most popular female attire in India, it is the true backbone of the handloom industry, the sari may be of silk, cotton, or mixed yarn, plain or ornamented with brocade, embroidery, printing, tie-dyeing or simply by woven patterns. Considering the variety of designs, textures, techniques, materials and weaves that are employed in the sari the handloom technology alone could be appropriate for its production.

Cotton

Cotton is the soul of the handloom industry of India. About three million hand-operated looms, which is ninety per cent of the total handlooms of the country, are engaged in weaving cotton fabrics. Cotton was a 'wonder-plant' for the Europeans who



gly enough *karpasa*, the Sanskrit word for cotton is related to Greek *karpasos* and the Latin *carbasus*. The English word 'cotton' has kinship with the Arabic *qutun*.

Today India grows some 23 varieties of cotton which are classified into: extra superfine, superfine, fine, fully good and good. The quality of cotton is judged by its fibre length, fineness, maturity and strength.

Silk

There are innumerable references to silk in early Indian literature. It appears that one of the most refined varieties of silks known as 'mulberry' was perhaps introduced into India from China at a later date and that the silk worms known as *tasar*, *muga*, *eri* and other local varieties were indigenous to India. Often the East India Company is granted the credit for introducing mulberry worms into India but this is not certain. It is on record that already in the 19th century mulberry trees and mulberry silk insects were in abundance in Manipur region. Manipur might easily have had, unknown to the rest of India, a mulberry silk industry many centuries before India proper received that insect. Today there is large scale cultivation of mulberry insects and a huge production of fine mulberry silk in the country. *Tasar*, *muga* and *eri* type of silk varieties are coarser but renowned for their textural beauty.

Textiles can be patterned either after the process of weaving is completed or at the stage of preparing the yarn and at the level of weaving. The various ways of creating patterns on woven textiles by means of dyes include the tie-and-dye technique, block printing, resist-dyeing, drawing and painting, painting and printing and tinsel work. From among several ways of creating patterns on the loom itself, the most renowned are the *ikat* and brocade techniques.

ikat fabrics

ikat, the technique by which the warp or weft or both can be tie-dyed in such a way that, when woven the 'programmed' pattern appears in the finished fabric. In *patola*, the proverbially famous double-*ikat* sari in which both warp and weft are so resist-dyed that when woven, the elements of pattern on the warp and on the weft mesh to create the desired richness of figure and ground. Once upon a time *patolas* were woven to Ahmedabad, Surat, Cambay and Patna. Today Patna is the only town that produces these remarkable fabrics.

Orissa is another great area of *ikat* saris and fabrics of cotton and silk. Here the difference is that though the warp and the weft are resist-dyed, the elements of pattern of the warp and the weft may not mesh. In other words in Orissa we are offered warp-*ikat* and combined *ikat*. In Orissan *ikat* saris certain areas of border and end-piece are woven by using plain dyed yarn, often as extra-weft.

Applying the same technique as in Orissa, but additionally using oil in preparing the yarn, Andhra had a tradition of *tela rumal*, a piece of cloth, used as *lungi*, shoulder cloth or loin cloth. The tradition was about to become extinct when, in the middle of this century, the All India Handicrafts Board gave a new lease of life to Chirala, Pochampalli, Puttapaka, Koyyalagudem and other centres where a large quantity of brilliant fabric is produced today.

Brocaded fabrics

Brocade refers to those textiles wherein patterns are created in weaving by transfixing or thrusting the pattern-thread between the warp. In regular weaving the weft thread passes over and under the warp thread regularly. But when brocade designs in gold, silver, silk or cotton threads are to be woven, special threads are transfixed between by skipping the passage of the regular weft over a certain number of warp threads (depending upon the pattern) and by regularising the skipping by means of prearranged heddles for each type of patterning.

Depending upon the nature of the patterning thread we have cotton-brocade, silk-brocade, mixed brocade or *zari* brocade.

When gold and silver threads are used along with or without silk threads, thrust either as special weft or warp to create glittering raised feather and chain stitches the embroiderers

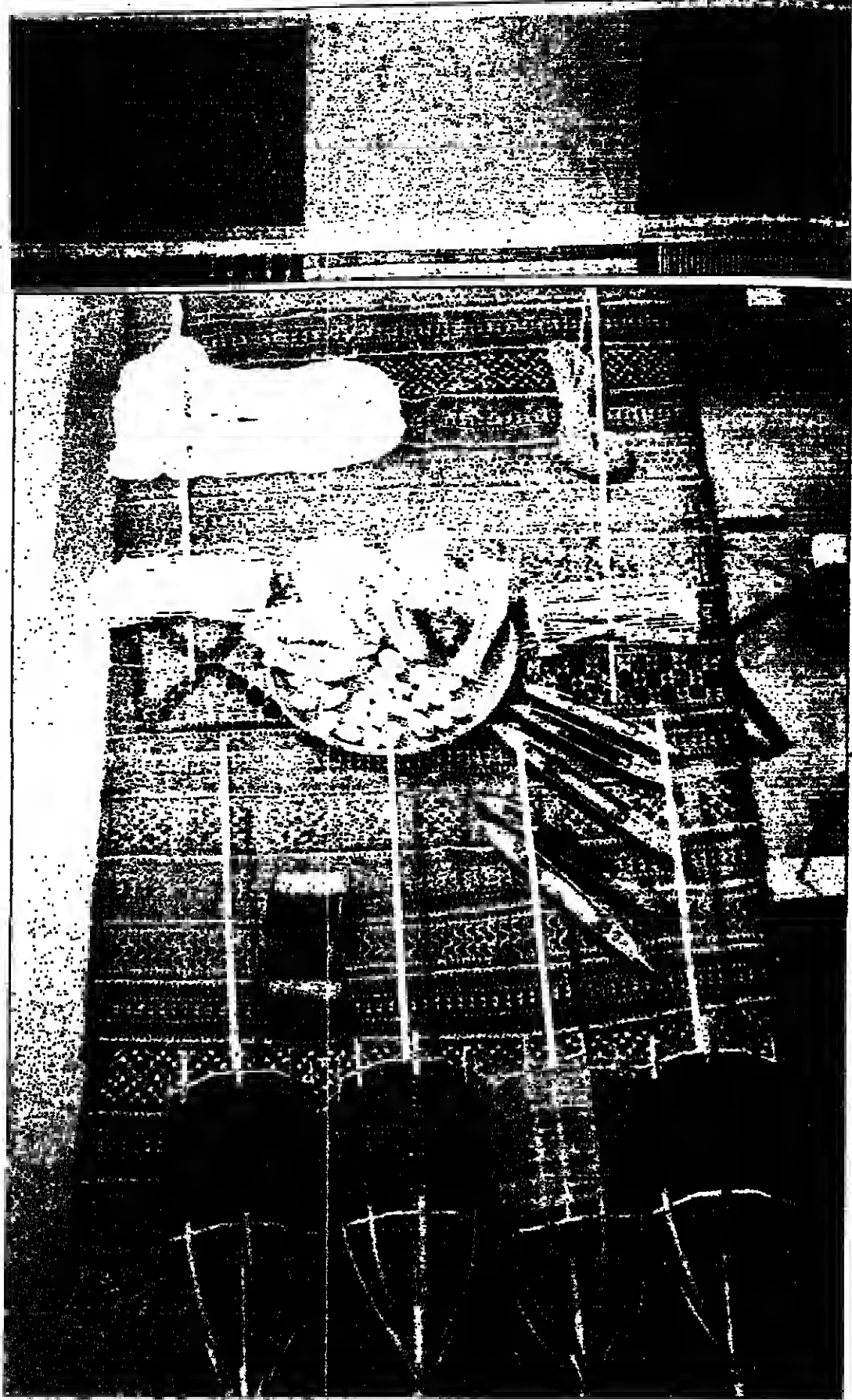
of Kashmir create beautiful patterns of paisley motif on their cotton and woollen drapings.

Annihilation and Revival

The glorious traditions of Indian handwoven textiles stood on the brink of extinction with the dramatic inventions in Europe of textile related machinery during the Industrial Revolution.

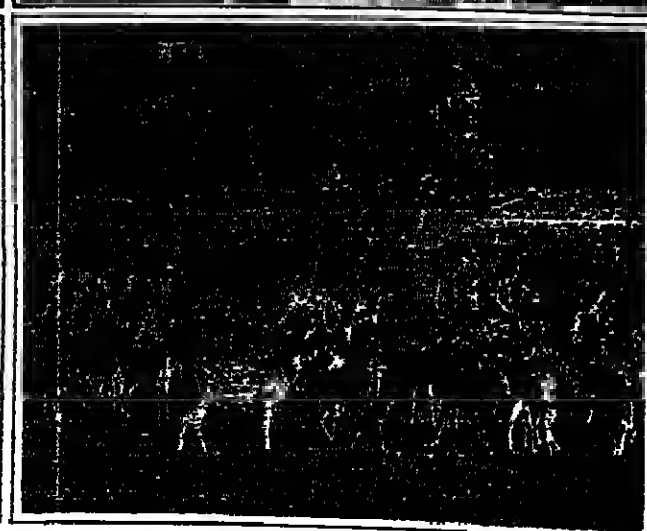
In 1952 the All India Handlooms Board was established hitherto together the main representatives of weaver interests. This was followed by the organisation of the All India Handlooms Fabrics Marketing Cooperative Society in 1955, an apex body concerned with the marketing of products mainly produced through handloom organisation. At about the same time a major technical wing of the handloom industry, later to be known as the Weavers Service Centres, and Institutes of Handloom Technology were established. With the team of talented and devoted designers, craftsmen and administrators, a revolution was brought in the development of handlooms. In 1958 the Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation of India was conceived, with the purpose of introducing handloom cloth to the new markets of Europe and USA.

Due to these endeavours on the part of the government in the last 37 years the turn that the dwindling handloom industry took is history and reality. Today about 3.5 million handlooms are operating in the country and millions of people, by choice, wear handlooms. Cotton and silk exports have risen from Rs 10 crores of the sixties to Rs 350 crores in 1982-83.



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MINIATURES

Brilliant examples of Mughal art

INDIAN art is basically religious. From earliest times, sculptures and paintings have formed a part of religious establishments, decorating temples, stupas and shrines of every sort. Sculptures adorned the gateways and walls of temples and other places of worship. Carved images stood on pedestals in the sanctum sanctorum, or in subsidiary buildings. Narrative friezes in stone extended horizontally and vertically along the inner and outer surfaces of buildings, illustrating stories from Hindu mythology or from Buddhist and Jain literature. These were sometimes interspersed with individual figures sculpted in relief. Every bit of a temple was often decorated, including structural details such as beams and brackets, and even the walls of rock-cut caves were painted with religious and secular scenes, for the Indian instinct for adornment encompassed every part of a structure. Later, tiny, brilliantly coloured miniature paintings illustrated religious treatises and commentaries, as well as secular manuscripts.

The origins of Indian sculpture and painting go back some 8,000 years and an account of its development is inextricably meshed with the development of Indian civilisation.

The tradition of painting on the walls of caves went through at least ten distinct phases. But the culmination of Indian fresco can be seen at Ajanta, where from the time of the Sungas in the second century BC, wall paintings continued to be made until the fifth century.

It was not until the second half of the 16th century that a truly creative style of miniature painting developed in India, and this was the result of a fusion between Indian and Persian styles. The new style developed in the court of Akbar, the greatest and most interesting of the Mughal Emperors, who successfully blended Hindu and Islamic elements to create the style that we now call Mughal, in architecture, art and administration. Akbar established workshops or *karkhanas* for painters at his court at Fatehpur Sikri, near Agra. Under the guidance of a

Persian artist named Mir Sayyid Ali, and a talented calligrapher named Abdus Samad, about a hundred promising young artists of all castes and creeds were trained in the art of miniature painting and in the equally important art of calligraphy. Some of them became renowned artists and their names reflected their varied origins, and the fact that they included both Hindus and Muslims. Mansur, for example, was Muslim; Govardhan, Basawan and Daswarth were Hindu. They had one thing in common; they excelled and developed under the emperor's unbiased patronage, and produced some of the finest miniature paintings that have ever been made.

Mughal miniatures defy traditional western classification. They are not always on paper. Not all of them are of a standard size. In fact, some of them are far from miniature in size, being as large as English watercolours. And, not all of them were made as illustrations for books. Some are loose individual paintings gathered in albums called *Muraqqa*. Despite the variations, however, they comprise a distinct, recognisable style in terms of treatment and the materials used. Akbar's tolerance and Catholicity are well known. He was particularly interested in religion and in the study of religious scriptures. Despite the fact that he was illiterate, Akbar

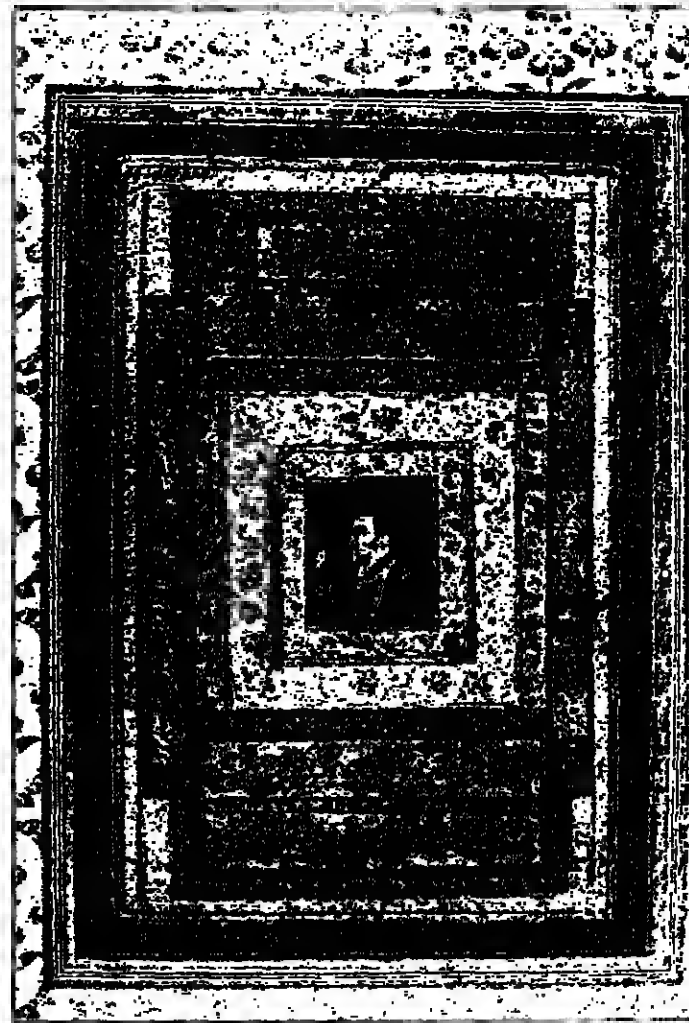
accumulated an extensive library, and had many manuscripts translated and copied for his collection. Among these was the Hindu epic, the *Mahabharata*, which became known as the *Hamzanama* or the Story of the Great War. It was illustrated with about 1,400 paintings on coarse cotton cloth. Among other manuscripts written and illustrated under his direction were the *Baburnama*, or the story of Babur, the first of the Mughal rulers, and the *Akbarnama*, about his own reign. Both these were done on paper and illustrated with a large number of beautiful paintings.

Artists in Akbar's reign used ochre, kaolin, terra verde, carbon black, malachite and azurite, and later lead white, madder lake, indigo and peori, a yellow substance extracted from the urine of cows fed on mango leaves. They also used gold, silver and lapis lazuli, the latter imported from Afghanistan. These later paintings are sumptuously colourful and have a lively, detailed style that brings history alive. Every bit of the painting is finely worked and entire scenes of battle and court life come alive in fascinating detail. Artists used delicate brushes made of squirrel's hair to achieve these effects.

The paintings done in Akbar's time established new patterns of art. The Persian influence was marked, and yet the court artists were able to convey something of the environment in which the paintings were made.

If Akbar established a new idiom in the field of painting, his son, Jahangir brought it to fruition, for the miniatures produced under his patronage are the best of those in the Mughal style. Although he was not as great a ruler as his father, Jahangir had an interest in the arts. He was also a keen observer of nature, and his interest in fauna and flora led to a large number of lovely paintings of animals, birds and plants being done.

The illustrations of important manuscripts continued during Jahangir's reign, but he also put in a train a large number of individual paintings. The portraits of all kinds of people, and



A leaf from the Akbarnama showing the rejoicing that took place at the birth of Humayun, the second Mughal Emperor



paintings of single birds and animals, are distinctly different from the crowded scenes that illustrate the scenes of Akbar's reign. Jahangiri paintings are also characterised by fine brushwork and shading. Optical perspective was meticulously maintained, and the landscape was integrated with the rest of the composition.

After Jahangir's reign, Mughal painting declined in quality and originality. Jahangir's son and successor, Shah Jahan, the builder of the Taj Mahal, was more interested in architecture than painting. Under his rule, Mughal architecture reached a pinnacle of excellence, but painting suffered from lack of royal interest. Although the workshops were not closed down, the quality of work that emerged from them had lost its vigour and expressiveness. And, when Shah Jahan's stern and puritanical son Aurangzeb became emperor in the second

half of the 17th century, Mughal painting more or less came to an end, although craftsmen continued to produce works of art for a diminishing market.

Many of the artists trained in the Mughal *karkhanas* and their apprentices flocked to the courts

If Akbar established a new idiom in the field of painting, Jahangir brought it to fruition, for the miniatures produced under his patronage are the best.

of smaller Hindu states in Rajasthan, in places such as Bundi, Kotah, Jaipur, Jodhpur and Bikaner, and to the northern hill states of the Punjab, such as Kangra, Kulu, Nurpur, Chamba, Basohli and Guler. The rulers of Rajasthani states had always encouraged painting, even in the heyday of Mughal art and now they became the major

patrons of this form of art. The paintings produced in these states drew upon the local artistic and religious traditions as well as those established by the Mughal school. Literary works such as the *Gita Govinda*, which tells of the passionate love between the god Krishna and Radha, and

other works such as the *Bhagavata Purana* and *Rasikapriya* all provided themes that were rich in imagery and symbolism. Musical modes, called *ragas* also influenced the artists, who strove to capture the mood and flavour of music in representational images.

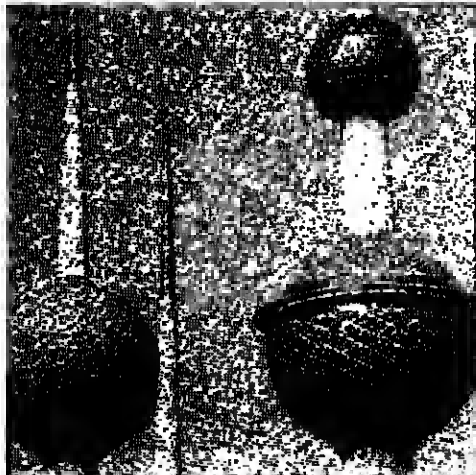
This rich tradition revitalised the art of miniature painting and

laid out new directions of development. The artists of the provincial styles honoured their patrons by depicting their palaces and gardens in paintings that illustrated stories from literary works. The buildings and landscapes took on a highly poetic style and were romanticised by moonlight, heavily laden clouds or dark moonlessness. The renowned historian, A. K. Coomaraswami has made a penetrating observation about the paintings of the Rajasthani school. He says:

"Rajput art creates a magic world where all men are heroic and all women beautiful, passionate and shy. Beasts both wild and tame are the friends of man, and trees and flowers are conscious of the bridegroom as he passes. This magic world is not unreal or fanciful but a world of imagination and eternity, visible to all who do not refuse to see with the transfiguring eyes of love."

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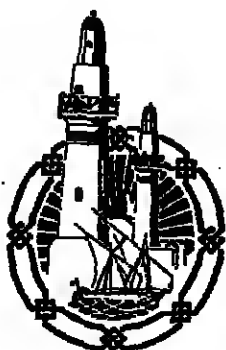
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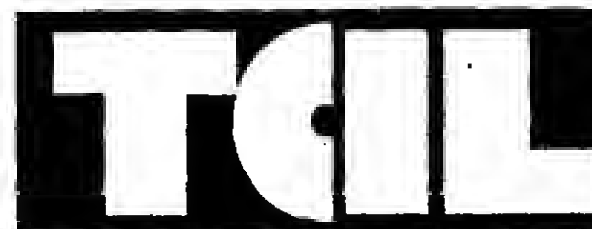
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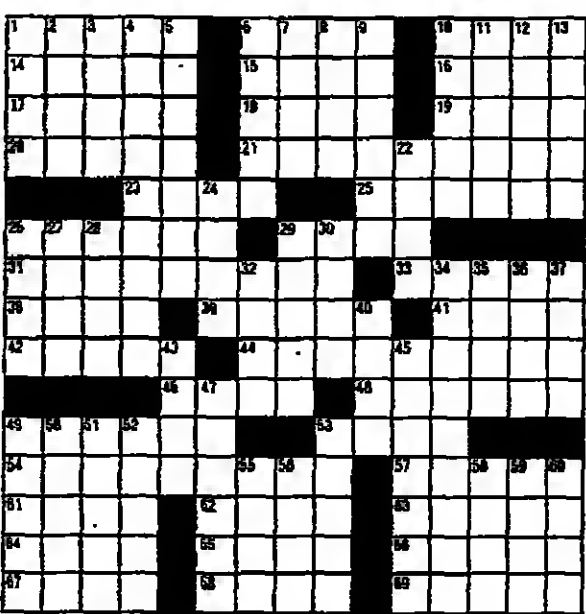
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TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- 1 Offends
 - 6 Trudge on
 - 10 Undermines
 - 14 Dostoyevski novel, with "The"
 - 15 Issue of 19 Across
 - 18 Group at a highland gathering
 - 17 Pavarotti's voice
 - 18 Sheriff
 - 19 Siel's sight
 - 20 Try out
 - 21 Feel happy as a lark
 - 23 Yarkas tractor
 - 25 Tampt
 - 26 The Mississippi's discoverer
 - 29 Complexion
 - 31 Charlatans
 - 33 Frequently
 - 38 Pastures
 - 39 Muse of poetry
 - 41 Learning
 - 42 Decayed
 - 44 Most flashy
 - 45 Some marines
 - 48 Blazer badges
 - 49 Culmination
 - 53 Cheviot chatter
 - 54 Parted
 - 57 Pursuit
 - 61 Anagram for 38 Across
 - 62 Decline
 - 63 Knights' activities
 - 64 Obscene matter
 - 65 Nobel winner
 - 66 Eyes
- DOWN
- 1 Catcher's need
 - 2 Concept
 - 3 Fish features
 - 4 Unconfined
 - 5 Sesame and Della
 - 6 Does a snow job
 - 7 Buddhist monk
 - 8 Track at Belmont
 - 9 Obscure
 - 10 Clue for a canine
 - 11 Mongolian mountains
 - 12 Fight
 - 13 Small drum
 - 22 Awaits
 - 24 Musical symbol
 - 26 Pickle flavoring
 - 27 Down Under
 - 28 Train with Tyson
 - 29 Catches
 - 30 Ratio words
 - 32 Gaelic
 - 34 Soars
 - 35 — the line
 - 36 Formerly, long ago
 - 37 Court features
 - 40 Grampus
 - 43 Judge
 - 45 Farm machine
 - 47 Eliminated the lady's thumb
 - 49 Collect
 - 50 Majorcan port
 - 51 Music hall
 - 52 "Beau —"
 - 53 Computer fodder
 - 55 Irritate
 - 56 Put the brakes on a bronco, with "in"
 - 58 Associate
 - 59 Ski maneuver
 - 60 Being

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
DUPLICATE OR RUBBER?

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 7 5 3
♥ Q 9 4 2
♦ 8 6 4
♣ A K 5

WEST
♠ 10 6 4
♥ K 7
♦ J 7
♣ J 10 9 8 6 2

EAST
♠ Q J 9 8
♥ 6 5
♦ Q 10 9 5 3 2
♣ Q

SOUTH
♠ A K 2
♥ A J 10 8 3
♦ A K
♣ 7 4 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♥ Pass 2 ♥ Pass
4 ♥ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Jack of ♣

suggested that, at duplicate, declarer should go down one trick, but South can guarantee 10 tricks at rubber bridge. The great disparity between these results is that duplicate pays handsomely for over-tricks, whereas rubber bridge does not.

At duplicate, declarer should win the first club trick and, despite the appearance of the queen, run the nine of hearts. As the cards lie, that loses to the king and the ten of clubs comes back. East ruffs away the ace and, as long as East carefully jettisons one of his spade honors to allow West to win the third spade with the ten, declarer must still lose a trick in each black suit.

At rubber bridge, declarer wins the opening lead and immediately plays a trump to the ace and another. No matter how the hearts lie, declarer can lose no more than one trick in each suit except diamonds. Why not play that way at duplicate? The chances of the trump finesse working are 50 percent, whereas a 6-1 club break occurs only once in 16 times. And if, indeed, East holds a singleton club, that defender is far more likely to hold trump length, headed by the king. Therefore, the finesse is well worth the risk.



YOUR STARS

Aries
March 21 - April 20

You are liable to allow your mind to wander and should do your best to stop it. Your lucky numbers are 22 and 37. Take a little better care of your health. Do not expect to have everything all your own way. Be respectful.

Cancer
June 21 - July 20

Make sure you do not neglect your personal appearance. And avoid eating and drinking so much that it shows. You should do your best not to get into bad habits. Be tactful.

Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

You will find it difficult to overcome a certain amount of inertia, but must make the effort. If you try to do too many things all at once you will end up doing none of them well. Better to maintain a steady rhythm than to do things by fits and starts. Be more patient.

Capricorn
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19

Now is a good time to make an important decision, but not the spur of the moment please. Do not allow your partner to have doubts about your affections. A promise you have made must be kept, however difficult to do so. Be reasonable.

Taurus
April 21 - May 20

Circumstances are favourable to going ahead with one of your pet projects. You should avoid all kinds of exaggeration. Make sure you do not rely on good luck. Be objective.

Leo
July 21 - Aug. 23

You should control your responses neither over nor under reacting. You will have to work really hard if you want to meet your commitments. Do not say exactly what you think — if you do you will give offence. Be cordial.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 22

The prospects are not all that good so do not do anything out of the ordinary and pay even more attention than usual. You will tend to tire easily so do not overextend yourself. Do not expect others to agree with all you say or do. Be tolerant.

Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 19

You should do your utmost to stick to the truth and must not resort to bluff. Someone who has made you a promise will only partially fulfill it. Best not to make an issue of it. Be resolute.

Gemini
May 21 - June 20

You will have to overcome a certain reticence to make a decision. Remember there is more to learn before you are quite proficient in a new skill. Try to show just a little more affection. Be sincere.

Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

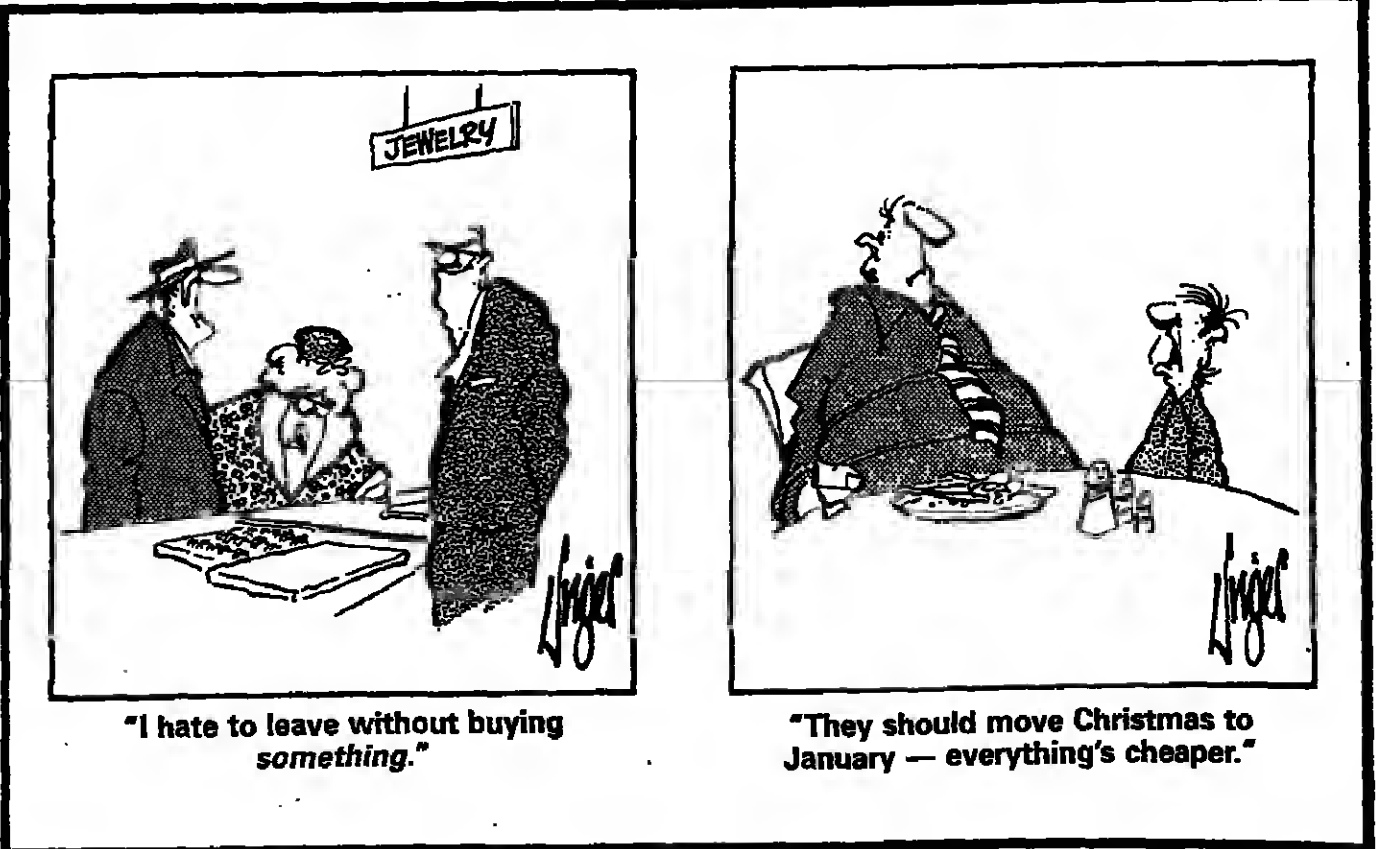
You will have to make a few changes — if you are careful they will be for the better. You should not lose the courage of your convictions. Do not do anything that might displease some good friends. Be responsive.

Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

You should pay more attention to the state of your finances and avoid all sorts of extravagance just now. Do not place too much reliance on gossip or hearsay. Leave yourself with enough time to relax but do not think that means to slacken your efforts. Be moderate.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20

You will have quite a bit of energy but must beware of dissipating it. There is reason for a little more optimism, but come for recklessness. Try not to do anything that would give to resentment. Be a good friend.



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(AT5-51232-3)

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(AT4-51209-3)

QADSIYA, Block No 6, Street No 66, House 1. One room with tele. facilities for a single Pakistani, or Indian family. Bus 16, 18, 14, 38. Rent KD60. Tel. 2561527.

(AT5-51225-3)

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Wanted

SHARING accommodation for a Dawoodi Bohra couple preferably in Sharq or near the Behbehani Complex. Tel. 2406795, 4 - 8.30 pm.

(AT6-51243-3)

2 or 3 BEDROOM apartment with spacious hall and 2 bathrooms preferably furnished required. Tel. 4837545, 9033051.

(AT6-51252-3)

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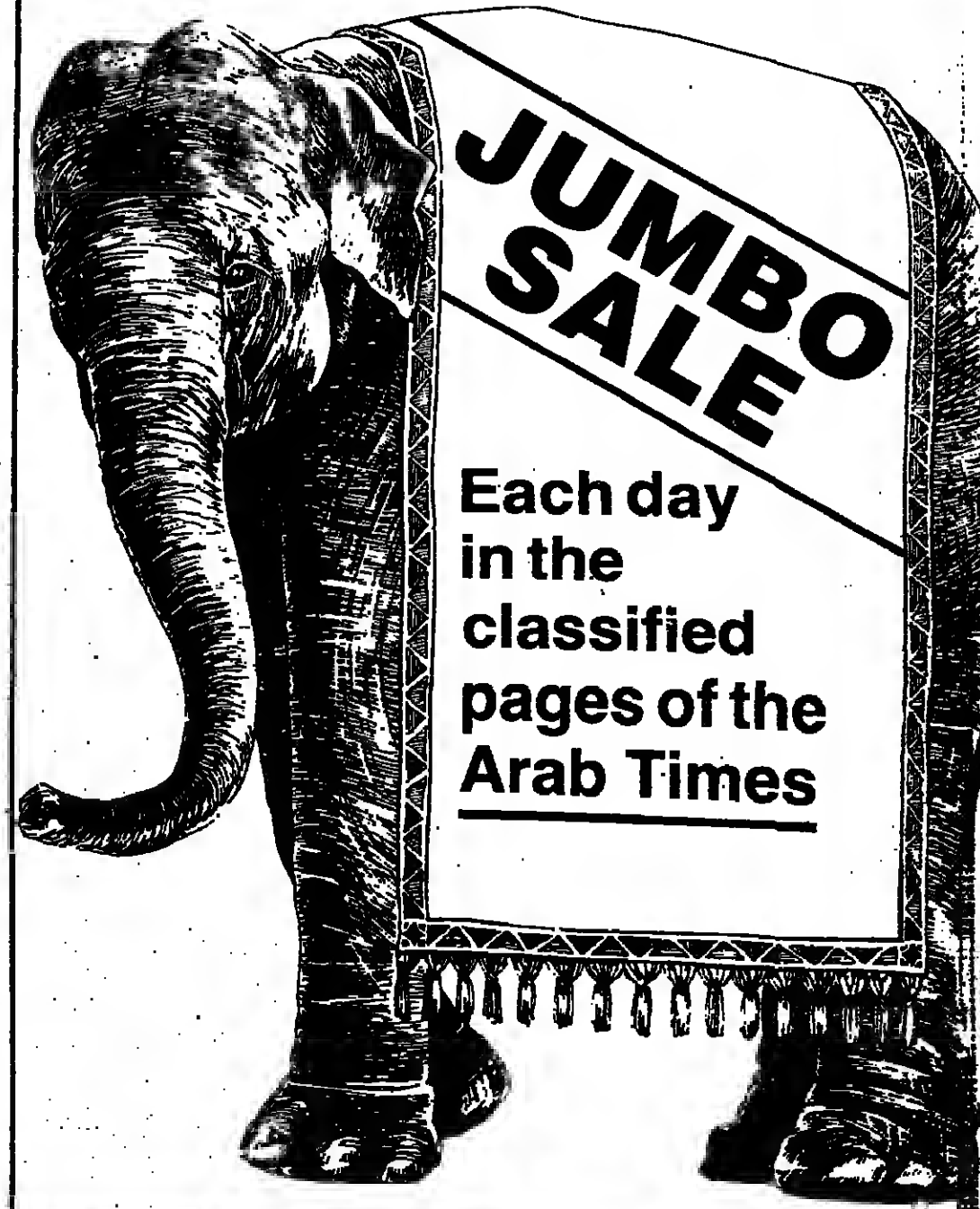
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ARAB TIMES NEWS IS OUR BUSINESS

Auriol and Sainz head for dramatic end to rally

MONTE CARLO, Jan 24, (Reuters): Didier Auriol of France and Carlos Sainz of Spain headed for a dramatic finish to the Monte Carlo Rally when they ended the penultimate stage yesterday separated by the minute margin of four seconds.

The decision between Auriol's Lancia and Sainz's Toyota will be decided in the final stage — the celebrated "Turini night," — when drivers face a demanding all-night ride through the mountains behind Monaco before tomorrow morning's finish.

Auriol and Sainz have been engaged in an enthralling duel through the three days of the rally, never separated by more than a few seconds.

The Frenchman has continually edged ahead when it mattered but he looked in trouble yesterday as he trailed Sainz by five seconds after the fifth of the day's six special timed sections.

But he got back ahead on the last one — the 18th out of 28 in the rally — even if his lead was out from 16 seconds overnight to a less than reassuring four.

World champion and last year's winner Massimo Biasion of Italy stayed third in his Lancia but lost ground again and trailed by two minutes 26 seconds, out of serious contention unless the two leaders suffer mishaps in the Turini.

Finn Ari Vatanen, crowned Paris-Dakar winner just a week ago, had to bow out with engine trouble, after his Mitsubishi, which was already showing signs of problems on Monday, finally let him down.

He quit just before the day's last special stage — Compagno. Hannu Mikkola, a former world champion, also withdrew when his Mazda developed a transmission problem.

Their withdrawals brought a woman into the top 10 for the first time. Briton Louise Aitken-Walker, whose main target is to win the Ladies Cup, moved into 10th place but is more than 28 minutes behind Auriol and Sainz.

Today, the first 100 in the overall standings enjoy a rest day before setting out on the final stage.

Lendl, Edberg, Noah win

Wilander stuns Becker



Wilander reacts triumphantly after his victory while Becker (below) has the disappointment written on his face. (Reuters wirephotos)



MELBOURNE, Australia, Jan 24, (Reuters): Mats Wilander returned to top form to score a majestic three set win over Boris Becker in the quarter-final of the Australian Open tennis championships today.

Wilander, going for his fourth Australian title, was at his classic best in cutting down second seed Becker 6-4 6-2 in the 37 degree Celsius (98 Fahrenheit) heat and swirling wind on the centre court.

Becker, who has never gone beyond the quarterfinals of the tournament, was lethargic in the heat, netting five backhands in losing the final game.

Facing defeat, Becker took off his protective hat for the third set, but it made no difference and he continued to be beaten by the deadly passing shots from Wilander.

Becker had come back from two sets down against Czechoslovakia's Miloslav Mecir in the fourth round on Monday but Wilander, the eighth seed, was a different proposition.

It was sweet revenge for Wilander, who was last month beaten by Becker during West Germany's Davis Cup final win.

"After the first set I thought I had a chance but I also remembered what he did against Mecir," said Wilander.

"I was a little surprised I was able to read his serve as well as I did."

Wilander now plays fellow Swede Stefan Edberg in the semifinals. Edberg beat American David Wheaton 7-5 6-7 (4) 3-6 6-2 on number one court while top seed Ivan Lendl was comfortably disposing of the Soviet Union's Andrei Cherkasov 6-3 6-2 6-3 on centre court.

Defending champion Lendl used little energy to reach the semifinals, taking just two hours to outclass Cherkasov.

"The hot wind was pretty bad. It was just unpleasant. I did not want to be out there for five sets," said Lendl, who was far too strong for his opponent.

Lendl began the match with a service break, and although Cherkasov, ranked 82 in the world, rallied well in the middle of each set, he was never a threat.

Lendl said his foreign legion-style hat, with a flap over the neck, was a big help, but he will come under stronger pressure in the semifinals, where he will meet Yannick Noah of France.

Tournament officials said that if the players agree they are considering closing the roof of the centre court for the semifinals to lower the temperature. The rules state that if a temperature of over 35 degrees Celsius (95 Fahrenheit) is forecast at 9 am the roof can be closed.

"I don't enjoy being out there to the point of being physically and mentally exhausted," said Lendl.

Third seed Edberg also battled through the heat and strong winds of the more exposed number one court to see off the gallant challenge of Wheaton, a 20-year-old from Minneapolis.

The American, ranked 46 in the world, squandered a set point in the second set but won the third as Edberg's concentration wavered in the difficult conditions.

The hot, northerly wind blew so strongly that courtside umbrellas and Wheaton's chair was overturned but twice Australian Open champion Edberg recovered to break his opponent in the first and seventh games of the fourth set to set up victory.

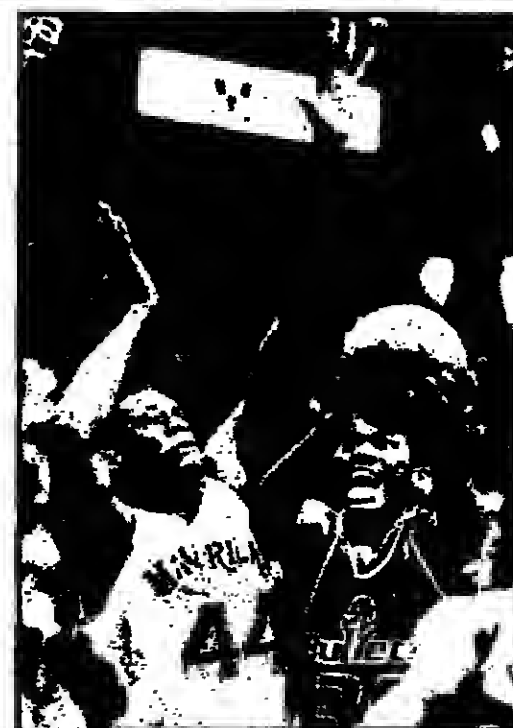
"I could have found myself in a bit of trouble if I had lost the second set," said Edberg, involved in a five-set men's doubles match the previous evening.

Frenchman Yannick Noah later reached his first Grand Slam semifinal since he won the French Open title in 1983.

He was in sparkling form as he swept out Sweden's Mikael Pernfors 6-3 7-5 6-2 to book an appointment with Lendl in the last four.

"Every time I play Lendl, it's a special match," said Noah. "It's not going to be the same match. It's going to be hot, but I feel confident and I hope he remembers what happened in Sydney," said Noah, who beat Lendl in straight sets at the New South Wales Open earlier this month.

"I'm serving well. I'm healthy and I cover the net very well. Anyone who wants to beat me will have to return very well and pass well, too."



NBA games

WASHINGTON Bullets' Bernard King (right) goes up for two points as Dallas Mavericks Sam Perkins tries to block during their National Basketball Association game in Dallas on Tuesday. Right: Los Angeles Lakers' Michael Thompson (left) gets New York Knicks' Patrick Ewing off his feet as he drives for the basket. The results of the matches played Tuesday evening were as follows: Atlanta Hawks 106 Charlotte Hornets 101; Phoenix Suns 118 Miami Heat 99; Philadelphia 76ers 103 Cleveland Cavaliers 88; Los Angeles Lakers 118 New York Nets 97; Detroit Pistons 107 Chicago Bulls 95; Dallas Mavericks 129 Washington Bullets 105; Utah Jazz 102 Houston Rockets 94; Golden State Warriors 109 Minnesota Timberwolves 102; Portland Trail Blazers 119 Milwaukee Bucks 90.

Little League team benched

STAMFORD, Connecticut, Jan 24, (AP): A youth baseball team that has been regarded at the White House and across the United States since winning the world championship in August is now being benched.

The president of the US Little League Organisation, Creighton Hale, has ordered the Trumbull Little League All-stars to curtail their public appearances or risk losing their charter. He said he is worried that the boys might lose their heads from all the attention.

"These are 11- and 12-year-old youngsters. They are not grown men and they really aren't great athletes," Hale said in a telephone interview on Monday.

Parents and coaches welcomed the order, saying they had grown weary of all the attention being showered on the young stars — and also were worried about what effect it would have.

"Everybody's relieved and happy that Little League took the action they did so we could get back to normal without some of us being the bad guys saying it was over," said Tom Galla, who managed the team.

Hubara beat Casuals

HUBARA beat Casuals by 8 wickets in the Thursday League, played at Ahmadi last weekend.

Despite only having 10 men and several key players missing, Casuals put up a good batting performance. The openers, Seward and Arton-Powell, looked in no particular difficulty on a pitch that offered little bounce. Seward used the edge to great effect, and was lucky to survive a sharp chance to gully. Arton-Powell looked very correct and must be one of the league's most improved players. Both batsmen were keen to take the quick single whenever the opportunity arose, surviving some close calls, until Arton-Powell was run out by Coulson, for 24. Seward went on to make 58 before falling caught and howled to Shipton.

Snowden was out to a good catch by Jacobs off Botby. Talbot then claimed two wickets in consecutive balls as he caught and bowled Clements and then bowled Karam, leaving Bond and Fernando to take the score to 121 of 25 overs. The Hubara innings started as ever, looking comfortable against a weakened Casuals attack, until once again Talbot was bowled by Snowden, to a ball that did not get up, but was intended to go to the boundary. Shipton fell in similar fashion to the great delight of the rampant Snowden.

Van Basten to get \$11.8m

MILAN, Italy, Jan 24, (Reuters): World club champions AC Milan said its lawyers agreed terms yesterday for the renewal of Dutch international striker Marco van Basten's contract for another three years.

Club officials said the contract, said to be worth 15 billion lire (\$11.8 million), would be signed by the European Footballer of the Year in the next few days, probably at club president Silvio Berlusconi's luxury villa at Arcore, northeast of Milan.

"What a relief he's staying with us until 1993. Imagine the torture every goal he scored would have been for us, knowing he would leave at the end of the season," said media muckster Berlusconi.

EVENTS



Reception for cyclist

The Indian group, Bharathi Kalai Mandram on Monday hosted a reception for the Indian cyclist, Jayaraman Ganesan, who was in Kuwait as part of a world tour. The BKM also assisted Ganesan during his stay here. Picture shows: Indian First Secretary Abdul Khaliq addressing guests as BKM chairman Dr Doraiswamy and Ganesan (centre) look on.



Employee of the Year

Fathi Abdannadher, general manager, with Department Heads of Holiday Inn Kuwait, recently presented the "Employee of the Year" award to Priyantha Kumarasinghe of personnel department for over-all outstanding performance and service to the staff.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 9.00 Opening and Holy Quran
- 9.15 Cartoons
- 9.45 Sabah Al Kher, variety
- 10.00 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
- 10.15 Sabah Al Kher, news
- 10.30 Rejal Fi Al Masaya: Arabic serial (part 5), starring Mohammed Redha, Amena Reza, Bader Al Deen Janjoun
- 11.30 The Open University: cultural programme
- 12.00 Sabah Al Kher, variety
- 12.15 Hawar Wa Nagham: local variety programme, prepared by Khaled Bu Hameed, presented by Nervana Edrees
- 1.00 News summary
- 1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
- 1.25 Min' Ghair Kalam: variety programmes (part 4), presented by Hassan Mustafa
- 2.15 Discovery: cultural programme (part 4)
- 3.00 Varieties
- 3.30 Liqa Al Khamees: variety programme
- 5.00 Beteen: cartoon serial
- 5.30 Cartoons
- 5.45 Night chemists, airlines and officials advertisements
- 6.00 Al Fareso Al Oshoq: historical serial (part 8)
- 7.00 Maa Al Talaba: local

- programme prepared by the Ministry of Education's school activities department
- 8.00 Kul Al Fonoon: local programme, prepared by Hassan Awar, presented by Rsha Majidi
- 8.30 Maa Al Islam: religious programme, prepared and presented by Dr Khaled Al Mazkoor
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.45 Al Laaboon Fi Al Nar: Arabic serial (part 4)
- 10.45 Assal Al Hob Al Mor: Arabic feature film, starring Noor Al Shereef, Maali Zayed, Saeed Saleh and Isaad Younis
- 12.20 Thursday late night variety show
- 1.30 News summary
- 1.35 The World Today via Satellite
- 1.50 Holy Quran and closedown
- FRIDAY
- 9.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
- 9.15 Cartoons
- 9.45 Cartoon serial (part 2)
- 10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
- 10.30 Children Magazine: Local children programme
- 11.00 Al Ahadeeth Al Mawdo'a: Religious serial, presented by Sheikh Salah Abu Ismael
- 11.15 Live from the Grand Mosque for the Friday

- Prayers and speeches
- 12.15 Alwan L variety programme, prepared by Mohammed Al Fares presented by Fatema Abdul Wahab
- 1.00 News summary
- 1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
- 1.20 Hadeeth Deeni: Religious programme, presented by Sheikh Mohammed Metwalli Al Sharawi
- 2.00 The Friday break, prepared by Qasem Abdul Qader
- 4.00 Daerat Al Ahdath: Local programme, prepared and presented by Kamel Al Abdul Jalal
- 5.00 Beteen: Cartoon serial
- 5.30 Cartoons
- 5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
- 6.00 Kuwait Television programmes in a week: Local programme, prepared and presented by News Control
- 7.00 The Living Planet: Cultural programme (part 4)
- 8.00 The Family Programme: Local programme, prepared by Tabani Al Burtoqli and presented by Fatooh Al Dalali
- 8.45 Hadeeth Al Oshoq: religious programme, presented by Sheikh Ali Al Jassar

- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.45 Wrestling
- 10.30 Sports and Arts: Local variety late night show, prepared by Khaled Al Matar and presented by Ibrahim Al Harbi
- 11.45 News summary
- 11.50 The World Today via satellite
- 12.15 Holy Quran and closedown
- KTV 2
- 6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
- 6.10 Cartoons
- 6.30 Walt Disney Film: "Sancho, the Homing Steer". Sancho a young calf, is raised by Ed cowboy and his wife Maria...
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.30 Breaking Away. Recreational and entertainment activities carried out in various parts in Kuwait...
- 8.45 Rescue 911. A mother and her son are rescued after their car is driven into a river... A woman stabbed by a thief... A young man and his girlfriend are trapped in their boat, etc.
- 9.30 The Weekend Programme.
- 10.00 Roseanne. Daryl the youngest daughter has an appendectomy.
- 10.30 The Mystery Wheel. "Sex and Detective".
- 11.30 News in Brief
- 11.45 Magazine D'Actualite

Kannada Koota

KUWAIT Kannada Koota, the well-known cultural association in Kuwait, is represented by Kannada-speaking families bailing from and around the state of Karnataka, India. It was formed six years ago and has been active in presenting cultural events representing the rich cultural heritage of the state of Karnataka. Kuwait Kannada Koota held its annual general body meeting on Jan 5, 1990 and elected the new office bearers for the year 1990. The following members were elected unanimously: President: B.R.K. Prasad; vice-president: R.R. Rajendra; gen. secretary: G.V. Prabhu; jr. sec/treasurer: Dr. A. Rao. The association held its last annual event during the first week of November 1989.

CINEMA TODAY

- Al Andalus Arabic film
- Al Samiyah Hall Booked
- Al Hamra Milagro Beanfield War
- Drive-in
- Arabic film
- Al Firdous Ghar Mein Ram Gali Mein
- Shyam Fahaeel Zulum
- Al Jahra Arabic film
- Granada Hall Booked
- Salaibkhat Lal Americayil
- Jleeb Dhan Daulat

- Ahmedi Drive-in Arabic film
- FF/IDAY
- Al Andalus Arabic film
- Al Samiyah Hall Booked
- Al Hamra Milagro Beanfield War
- Drive-in
- Arabic film
- Al Jahra Moon Trap
- Al Firdous Ghar Mein Ram Gali Mein
- Shyam Fahaeel Zulum

Granada Hall Booked Salaibkhat Licence to Kill Jleeb Ek Duje Ke Liye Ahmedi Drive-in Arabic film

PRAYERS

- Fajr 5.19 am
- Zohr 12.00
- Asr 3.00 pm
- Maghreb 5.20
- Isha 6.39
- FRIDAY
- Fajr 5.18 am
- Zohr 12.01
- Asr 3.00 pm
- Maghreb 5.21
- Isha 6.40

NIGHT CHEMIST

- Kuwait
- Al Therban Pharmacy Arabian Gulf Street
- Al Mojel Pharmacy Abdullah Al Mubarak Street
- Hawalli & Nagra
- Al Naser Pharmacy Tunis Street
- Salmiya & Rumaithiya
- Al Feda Pharmacy Al Khansa Street
- Fahaeel & Ahmadi Burqan Pharmacy
- Al Sabah Souq
- Farwaniya
- Al Yasmeen Pharmacy Main Street
- Jahra
- Al Abraj Pharmacy Daabal Al Khozai Street

SPORTS

Senna was used, says Balestre

MONTE CARLO, Jan 24, (Reuters): Jean-Marie Balestre, the motor sports supremo embroiled in controversy with former world champion Ayrton Senna, said today he believed the Brazilian had been used.

"Senna has been used as an instrument," he told reporters at the Monte Carlo Rally. "He has been sent into the front line by others."

Balestre, president of the International Automobile Federation (FIA), and of the International Motor Sports Federation (FIM), appeared to be trying to take some heat out of a dispute which has resulted in Senna having his place in this year's world championship threatened by the withdrawal of his super-licence.

"I appreciate Senna's present attitude. Discretion is more effective than explosion," he said in approval of Senna's silence on the FIA's threat to withhold his super-licence.

Two weeks ago Balestre, as head of FIA, said Senna would not be granted a super-licence unless he publicly retracted allegations that FIA officials, including Balestre, had manipulated last year's world championship in favour of Senna's former McLaren team mate Alain Prost.

Since then Balestre has turned his anger towards the media, especially in Brazil, where Senna is seen as the victim of a vendetta by FIA and Balestre.

Balestre said sections of the media had incorrectly reported that the FIA had demanded an apology from Senna. He said the body's world council had insisted only that he retract false allegations.

He would not elaborate on who he thought Senna had been used by, but appeared to suggest it was the media.

"I think several of you had no money for a Formula One driver in snatching statements from him which do not always reflect his deeper thoughts," he said.

Senna lost his chances of retaining the world title at the Japanese Grand Prix in Suzuka last October when he won the race, but was later disqualified, following a collision with Prost.

He later suggested there had been FIA manipulation of the championship, pointing out that both Balestre and Prost were French.

Police seize rifles in raid just before start Commonwealth Games open

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Jan 24, (UPI): The chants of thousands of Maoris and the wailing of conch shells opened the XIV Commonwealth Games today, the largest in the 60-year history of the event.

Prince Edward, youngest son of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, signalled the start of the 11-day extravaganza which has attracted 3,100 participants from 55 nations.

Starting tomorrow, competition begins in 10 sports — track and field, badminton, bowls, boxing, cycling, gymnastics, judo, shooting, swimming and weightlifting.

Despite the hopes of organisers that the ceremony celebrating the culture of the native Maoris would diffuse demonstrations, activists vowed to bombard tourists with their demands for access to ancestral lands and complaints over inadequate housing.

Stood in Mt Smart Stadium, set in the crater of an extinct volcano, the Prince read the Queen's opening declaration that had been kept in a bison carried by thousands of runners criss-crossing the country since New Year's Day, imitative of the Olympic torch relay.

Reading his mother's message, the Prince said, "The Commonwealth Games have a well deserved world reputation for friendship and good sportsmanship. The (Games) village has always been a centre of friendship and happiness."

Expressing the hope the next ten days will combine "fellowship and sport," the Prince said, "I now declare the Games open."

Mark Todd, four-time equestrian Olympic gold medalist, carried the baton into the stadium on his horse and turned it over to Peter Snell, Olympic 800 and 1,500 gold medalist.

Snell ran around the track and handed the baton to the Prince.

The ceremony packed with pageantry and polish after a year of rehearsals interwove Maori lore in dance and song with dazzling laser displays forming a volcanic cone while five Royal New Zealand aircraft jets sped past.

The drumbeats of hundreds of Maoris pulsed through the stadium.

The highlights were the traditional parade of athletes, with the delegations ranging in size from England's 347 to Sierra Leone with one. Maoris dressed in traditional warrior garb accompanied each team while women waved branches, signifying greetings.

Runner Felix Sandy, 24, proudly marched alone in his dual capacity as flag bearer and team.

With his African homeland plagued by financial problems, Sandy said, "The feeling was that the flag must be represented and that we have at least one competitor here to honour New Zealand's invitation."

Australia, whose rumour to the event was marred by embarrassing incidents including a nude romp in the Games village and accusations of sexual harassment of a middle distance runner, got its act in shape for a cheerful entrance of 317 participants.

They strode in and waved behind swimmer Janelle Elford, adorned in a dazzling cape of silk and chiffon in the national colours of green and gold over a green swimsuit.

After a 20-year absence, Pakistan was back with 12 male athletes sent by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. The country quit the association of former British colonies when the group's leading members recognized Ban-



An Australian team member imitates a dancing Maori warrior during the opening ceremony. (Reuters wirephoto)

gladesh, formerly East Pakistan, as an independent state. The Canadians, in their chic red, white and blue uniforms, received a particularly warm welcome in their first major inter-

national competition since renounced sprinter Ben Johnson disgraced the country by taking steroids before the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

The massive procession was a sharp contrast to the pitiful opening four years ago in Edinburgh. Thirty-two countries led by the African bloc stayed away in protest against Britain's refusal to tighten sanctions against South Africa, leaving only 26 nations participating.

Nigeria and Zimbabwe threatened boycotts if England was not expelled from the Auckland Games in retaliation against the rebel cricket tour of South Africa but backed down, much to the relief of organisers who have spent \$50.1 million and are already \$16.5 million in the red.

With Africa back in force, Kenya was favoured to take most of the medals in track and field. In the swimming pool, Canada and Australia will renew their rivalry while Britain's running ace Sebastian Coe, the only double Olympic 1,500 metre gold medalist, seeks to end his 13-year sports career with golds in both the 800 and 1,500.

Security was beefed up after police investigating a terrorist plot to disrupt the games discovered two rifles in a swoop of homes in the Auckland area, only hours before the opening. Every officer in the country was ordered to guard Game venues.

Police spokesman Tony Bouchier told Reuters a 28-year-old man would face firearms charges but refused to name him. Police also launched dawn raids on several other houses but no other weapons were found.

"Police were investigating reports that firearms were available for unlawful purposes in relation to the Games," a police statement said. They took .22 and .223 calibre rifles.

Rumours have swept Auckland that radical Maori groups might be planning a violent protest during the Games. One group has already announced a peaceful demonstration to be held shortly before the opening ceremony.

One of the raids was on the home of Maori radical Titehai Harawira.

"Yet again we who are in political struggle, who are there working for self-determination for our people, are selected out for this type of intimidation," she told Radio New Zealand. "I find it really provocative."

Harawira said no weapons had been found at her home, but Bouchier declined to comment on this.

Commonwealth Games head Joe McManamin said yesterday a likely 20 million-dollar (\$12 million) Games' loss was preferable to forcing small nations to pay for taking part.

"I prefer facing a big deficit instead of making little countries miss the Games because they cannot afford to pay to stay in the village," said McManamin, organising committee president.

McManamin admitted organisers should have handled sponsorship differently but would not comment further.

"The Canadians are here and they have learned a lot from us for 1994," he said. Victoria in British Columbia will host the next Games.

A broken hand suffered when he punched a pig will not stop Cook Islands weightlifter Mike Tererui competing in the Commonwealth Games.

Irritated that the pig was eating the crops on his smallholding, Tererui floored it with a blow to the head. He said the pig, a burly 100 kg porker, was unconscious for 90 minutes.

Indians collapse in second innings

NEW PLYMOUTH, New Zealand, Jan 24, (Reuters): India, who scored 512 in their first innings, were bowled out for 185 by the New Zealand President's XI on the third day of a four-day cricket match today.

The New Zealanders, resuming at 214 for four, declared at 329 for nine, still 33 runs short of the follow-on target, after India agreed not to make them bat again.

The President's XI ripped through the Indian batting and were nine without loss in their second innings at the close.

Opener Vijay Chandrasekhar, who scored 92 in the first innings, was out for three and when his partner Navjot Sidhu went for 30 with the total 59 the Indian innings collapsed, with four wickets falling for just six runs.

Left-arm spinner Mark Richardson picked up three wickets, two either side of the interval.

With India in trouble at 93 for six, wicketkeeper Kiran More, who was unbeaten on 59, and skipper Mohammed Azharuddin, run out for 24, added some respectability to the innings with a 50-run stand.

President's XI captain Martin Snedden said his side would push hard for victory on the final day.

"We face a hard task against an international attack of this class and we need to be totally committed," Snedden said.

Scoreboard

INDIA first innings 512 (M. Azharuddin 159, V. Chandrasekhar 82, S. Manjrekar 80, J. Millmow 16 for 127). President's XI first innings (over-

night 214 for four): K. Waaleens lbw b Prabhakar ... 0 D. White run out ... 20 K. Rutherford c Manjrekar b Dev ... 54 M. Douglas c More b Raju ... 30 G. Bradburn c More b Prabhakar ... 74 G. Larsen lbw b Prabhakar ... 43 S. Thomas c Azharuddin b Dev ... 24 A. Parore c Prabhakar b Hirani ... 22 M. Snedden c More b Prabhakar ... 18 R. Richardson not out ... 29 J. Millmow not out ... 13 Extras (lb-7 nb-5) ... 13 Total (for nine wickets declared) 329

Fall of wickets: 1-25 93-3 3-53 4-150 5-225 6-234 7-280 8-280 9-319

Bowling: Kapil Dev 20-6-48-2, Prabhakar 23-4-87-4, Razdan 13-2-76-0, Raju 27-11-68-1, Hirani 28-12-63-1

INDIA second innings V. Chandrasekhar b Thomson ... 3 N. Sidhu c Parore b Snedden ... 30 S. Tandelkar c Douglas b Richardson ... 47 S. Manjrekar c Rutherford b Lar-

son ... 11 M. Prabhakar c Waaleens b Richardson ... 11 Kapil Dev c Snedden b Richardson ... 1 Kapil Dev c Snedden b Richardson ... 24 K. More not out ... 59 V. Raju c Parore b Thomson ... 9 Y. Razdan c Bradburn b Thomson ... 0 M. Hirani c More b Bradburn ... 0 Extras (lb-1 nb-1) ... 2

Total (for nine wickets declared) 185 Fall of wickets: 1-23 2-58 3-87 4-88 5-92 6-93 7-143 8-172 9-172

Bowling: Millmow 5-0-15-0, Thomson 13-0-56-3, Snedden 8-3-12-1, Larsen 15-3-45-1, Richardson 11-2-47-3, Bradburn 6-1-8-1

PRESIDENT'S XI second innings K. Waaleens not out ... 0 D. White not out ... 1 Extras (lb-4 nb-4) ... 5 Total (for no wicket) ... 9

Bowling to date: Prabhakar 3-30-0, Dev 2-1-1-0.

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REQUIRES

Dynamic & result-oriented persons capable of growing with us

SALES MANAGER

He will have overall responsibility of Sales Department. Candidates should possess the following qualifications:

- Preferably university graduate
- Proficiency in spoken and written Arabic and English languages
- Within 30 to 35 years age group
- Minimum 5 years field sales experience in Kuwait's retail market particularly with Coops & Supermarkets
- Have organizing & planning abilities and leadership skill to lead a team of efficient salesmen
- Should exhibit a positive attitude towards his career and ready to accept challenges and able to meet deadlines of assignments
- Transferable residence

OPERATIONS MANAGER

The individual we seek must possess the following qualifications:

- Preferably university graduate
- Strong verbal communication skills in Arabic and English languages
- Should have complete knowledge of inventory control/movements and delivery of cold stores items as well as dry food stuff items, in cartons or bags, etc.
- 5 years working experience in this particular field
- Should have the capability of handling delivery operations involving management of personnel within the fleet
- Should have in-depth knowledge of Customs' regulations on the importation of food items as well as local laws prescribed by the Municipality on such food items
- Transferable residence

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The ideal candidate we seek should have the following qualifications:

- University graduate
- 3-5 years experience in secretarial practice with a senior management personnel
- Proficient in verbal and written Arabic and English languages
- Knowledgeable of daily business operations
- Proficient in typing, telex, business correspondence and usage of word processing
- Capable of presenting Company with pleasing personality and good public relations are an advantage
- Transferable residence

SENIOR MARKET RESEARCHER

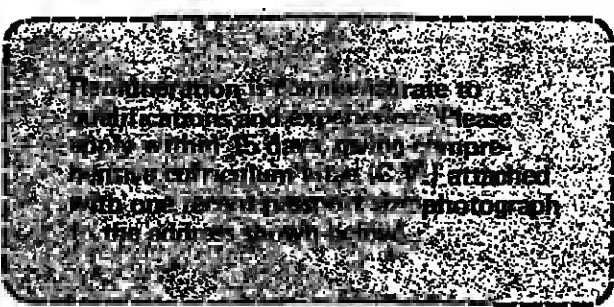
The individual we seek must possess the following qualifications:

- University graduate
- Superior written and oral communication abilities in both languages (Arabic and English) alongwith good grasp of marketing and market research issues
- 5 years of marketing experience with a recognized market research organization or the research unit in an advertising agency, with capability in the area of questionnaire design and various research methods and analytical tools
- Research background in consumer packaged goods is desired
- Skills to aid in the interpretation of the results and guide marketing programs
- Well developed project management skills
- Transferable residence

JUNIOR MARKET RESEARCHERS

The successful candidate will have the following qualifications:

- Preferably university graduate
- Strong verbal and written communication skills in Arabic and English
- Minimum 3 years experience in marketing research, preferably in consumer packaged goods
- Good understanding of research techniques, with a commitment to continuing professional development
- Solid conceptual and analytical abilities
- Transferable residence



The Attention of the Director of Personnel
P. O. Box 3573, Salmiya,
22036, Kuwait

Beckenbauer, Maier to face Pele again

BONN, Jan 24, (Reuters): Former soccer stars of the 1970s Franz Beckenbauer, Sepp Maier and Pele will meet again in March when a joint German team meets a World XI in an invitation match in the East German city of Dresden.

Pele will lead a world team to include fellow Brazilian Zico, former England captain Kevin Keegan and Sweden's Ronnie Hellstrom, organisers said today.

Former goalkeeper Maier and Beckenbauer, now national team coach, will link up with other former West German stars Paul Breitner and Karl-Heinz Rummenigge and East German internationals Jurgen Croy and Hans-Juergen Kriesche.

The game, on March 26, will be broadcast live on satellite television and aims to raise money for the rebuilding of Dresden castle.

Soviet players: Dutch First Division soccer club Vitesse Arnhem have signed two Soviet players from Cika Moscow, club chairman Karai Aalbers said yesterday. Striker Valeri Maslita and midfielder Sergei Krutov have been given contracts to the end of the season.

W. Germany team: West Germany will field the team which won last year's Davis Cup in the opening round of the 1990 event against the Netherlands, team captain Niki Pilić said on Tuesday. He said next week's tie in Bremen will feature triple Wimbledon champion Boris Becker, Carl-Uwe Steeb, Eric Jelen and Patrick Kuennen.

Chalmers returns: British Lions stand-off Craig Chalmers returns after injury to Scotland's side for their opening match of the Five Nations Rugby Union Championship against Ireland in Dublin on Feb 3.

Pole vault masters: Soviet pole vaulters Sergei Bubka and Rodion Gataulin, the only two men to have cleared six metres, will face each other at the Grenoble Pole Vault Masters on March 10, organisers said on Tuesday.

Boxing tripleheader: Thomas Hearns will fight Michael Olajide, and former heavyweight champion George Foreman will fight either Jose Ribalta or Trevor Berbick in a boxing tripleheader April 26 at Caesars Palace, promoter Bob Arum said Tuesday.

Giant slalom: Richard Kroell, winning his second consecutive Giant Slalom, spearheaded an Austrian sweep of the podium. He covered the ice-hard artificially prepared course in 2 minutes 46.62 seconds, more than half a second ahead of his nearest rival Hubert Strolz who finished in 2:47.15.

Japanese shocked by Tyson's knockdown

TOKYO, Jan 24, (AP): Japanese sports papers splashed "shock" over world heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson going down in a sparring session, and a trainer said today that Tyson was "feeling not too strong."

Another trainer said, however, it was "a slip or push or something" in yesterday's sparring, and no master of ceremonies.

Promoter Don King said: "I didn't see it. But whatever it is, it's good for the sport and good for boxing in Japan because now everybody works hard."

Tyson, preparing for his second title defence in Tokyo in two years, shortened his sparring today and decided to take tomorrow off, said trainer Aaron Snowell.

"It will be Tyson's first day off since he came here one week ago. He has sparred every day since then," Snowell said.

He said each day's sparring is decided on how the boxer feels. "Today he said he didn't feel too strong," Snowell said.

Asked if Tyson was overtraining, another trainer, Jay Bright replied: "No, taking a break is good training. After the day off, he is coming back strong."

Tyson defends his title against James "Buster" Douglas on Feb 11 at the Tokyo Dome.

Today's edition on Hoichi Shimbun, one of Japan's leading sports newspapers, splashed front-page headlines reading: "Tyson sinks. Shocks the world. First down in his career."

Another paper, Nikkan Sports, echoed: "Tyson suffers his first down in sparring session. Shock. Former champion hit with right."

They were reporting on sparring yesterday in which Tyson ended up on his back after he charged into a right hook by Greg Page. Tyson was attacking late in the third round when his momentum carried him into a right counterpunch by Page, who was world champion from Dec 2, 1984, until April 29, 1985.

The scene, shown on Japanese television, came in Tyson's first public sparring after three days of shooting out the media from his training sessions.

Asked if Tyson was concerned about the Japanese headlines, Bright said: "No, not at all."

"It was a slip or push or something. We are not concerned, like nothing happened," he said.

Former world junior welterweight champion Tsuyoshi Hamada of Japan disputed the trainers' version of what happened.



Rebel cricketers

Skipper Mike Gatting of the England rebel cricket team and wicketkeeper Bruce French practicing at the Wanderers Club in Johannesburg yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Italian Cup: Results of third round group matches in the Italian Soccer Cup yesterday: Group A: Internazionale 3, Roma 1. Group B: Fiorentina 1, Napoli 1. Group C: Atlanta 1, AC Milan 1. Group D: Juventus 2, Sampdoria 1. (Interazionale and Roma play Juventus and Napoli play AC Milan in semifinals. First leg January 31, second leg February 14).

Scottish draw: Revised draw for the fourth round of the Scottish Football Association (FA) Cup: Ayr or St Mirren v Clydebank; Cowdenbeath v Dunfermline or Hamilton; Dundee United v Queen of the South or Alloa; Aberdeen v Morton or Raith; Celtic v Rangers (Sunday, Feb 25); East Stirling or Stirling Albion v Airdrieonians or Inverness Caledonian; Hearts v Motherwell; Hibernian v East Fife. Matches to be played on Saturday, Feb 24 (unless stated).

Hodde injured: Former England midfielder Glenn Hodde, who has not played for more than six months following knee surgery last summer, has suffered another injury setback to training, his French club Monaco said yesterday.

Strange retires: Britain's Nathan Strange has quit after seven months in the traditional Japanese sport of sumo wrestling, saying he could not live in the feudalistic sumo world, his stable master said Tuesday.

Francisco released: South African-born snooker star Silvino Francisco has been released on police bail after he was arrested in connection with an alleged betting fraud at British tournaments, Scotland Yard said yesterday.

Austrian Open: Boris Becker has agreed to take part in the \$350,000 Austrian Open tennis tournament at Kitzbuehel, organisers said Monday. Plans are also underway to increase the purse to \$750,000 by next year, in an effort to attract more top names to Austria's biggest men's tournament.

Club commitments: Austrian national soccer manager Josef Hickersberger said club commitments will likely prevent striker Toni Polster of Spanish club Sevilla from joining the squad until the end of May, when training for this summer's World Cup begins.